The Marker Lamp

Volume 72 • Number 1 • March 2026

All Aboard for Connections 2026

Plus:

Controlling Your Turnouts

The Livingston Model Railroad Club

LONE STAR REGION

LSR CONVENTION 2026 CONNECTIONS AUSTIN, TEXAS

NMRA

The Marker Lamp

The Official Publication of
The Lone Star Region of the
National Model Railroad
Association

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The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to advertising should be addressed to Steve Sandifer at steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net.

Cover photos are from David and Sam Nicastro's HO scale D&RGW Moffat Route featured at Connections 2026.
(Photos by Peter Kazmir)

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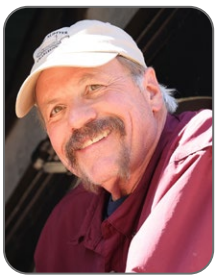
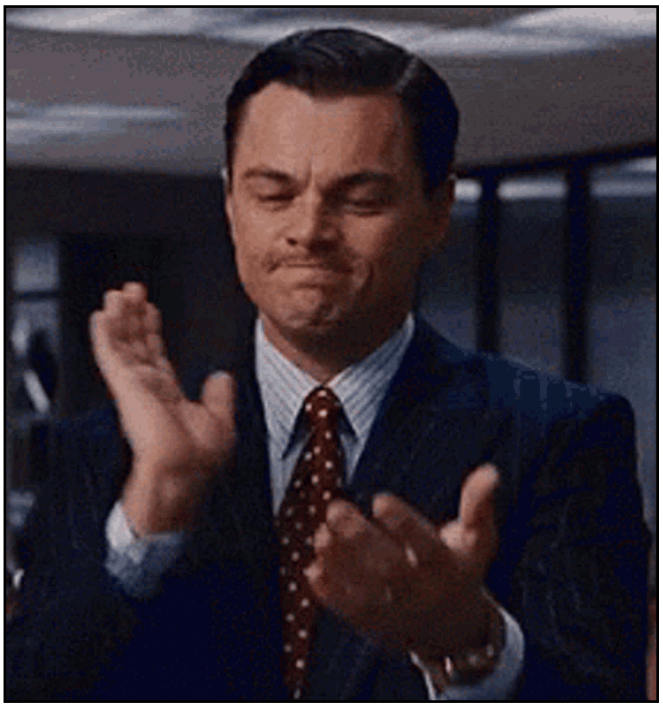


Division Participation

by Bob Barnett, MMR
rbarnettmopac@gmail.com

I'm so proud of you. I know, I know, that sounds like what you mother said when you brought home your 3rd Grade report card. But it was appropriate then and it is this time. As some of you are aware the NMRA is making a big push to get more member involvement particularly at the Division Level. To anyone who has been involved in any organization, club or church getting the average member more involved in organization activities attracts members and retains them once they join. The NMRA wants each division to have not only a head person (called a Division Director in the LSR) but also additional staff to maintain continuity and spread the work around. During a recent RAC, (Regional Advisory Council) meeting the LSR was pointed out as already having this structure. I'm not sure that is universal around all the LSR, but our more active urban divisions do employ this type of organization.

But more importantly and to the point of my opening statement: our Divisions display an amazing amount of cooperation with their neighbors. Fort Worth (Division 1) and Dallas (Division 3) both have monthly meetings. These are both in-person meetings and have an on-line component. But here's the good part: The meetings dates are staggered to allow DFW area folks to attend either or both. I recently attended the Cowcatcher monthly meeting on Zoom and noticed several Dallas area members at the Fort Worth meeting. In addition Duane Richardson travels to both meeting to promote and encourage participation in the NMRA Achievement Program. Most of you are aware that many of the DFW model railroads are "out in the Mid-Cities" and the folks living there can consider themselves as more aligned to Big-D or to Cowtown. So giving them the choice of participating in either or both is an excellent idea.



I also found out at the January Board Meeting that Austin (Division 4) and San Antonio (Division 6) are doing the same thing. Each Division has semi-monthly meetings and in the alternate month where one does not have their meeting the other division does. This enables those living in each division to attend both meetings. This is particularly relevant in the San Marcos-New Braunfels area that function more like the DFW Mid-Cities.

In recent months Division 8 (Houston) has been meeting concurrently with the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club at their Tuesday night monthly meetings. TxDOT has developed a habit of shutting down entire sections of freeway on Saturdays for construction and the Division 8 Saturday meetings have suffered. But Kelly Russell, the candidate for Division 8 Director, has some plans to restore more Division 8 activities.

The next step is to figure out how to get more participation in our less urban divisions. Division 5 (West Texas) and Division 7 (North Louisiana/East Texas) comprise large areas with limited population and even more limited model railroaders. But as the saying goes: We're working on it. **ML**

From the Editor

The Only Constant

by Peter Kazmir
peter@centexnmra.org

It's said that change is the only constant in the universe. Even in Model Railroading this is true. Look at the changes in the hobby just in the past thirty years or so as a great example.

However, the change I'm referring to is a little closer to home. As you might have noticed, I'm not running for reelection for LSR Secretary. And, in fact, the next issue of *The Marker Lamp* will be my last.

After running in this sprint for more than four years it's time to hand the baton to the next group of folks. By the time I leave this summer, I will have published 14 issues going back to 2022. I also implemented our new Google Workspace/Drive environment and developed *three* new websites for the LSR (and part of the 2023 National Convention's). It's time for a rest!

The good news is that you're in great hands. We'll talk more about that in the next issue. I'm proud of what I and the rest of the LSR team has done over the last four years, and I have no doubt that the LSR and *The Marker Lamp* will continue to do great things going forward. Thank you all for making it possible.

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In that spirit, I hope you will all join me at Connections, the 2026 LSR Convention. It will be this June in Austin, and it'll be a great opportunity for celebration. Registration is now open at connections2026.com - and the early bird discount ends April 31, so don't delay! The committee (which I'm a member of) has a great convention in store for you, with a tour of a rail-served cement plant, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Austin Steam Train Association's rolling stock and locomotives, and a visit to a brand new live steam railroad. We've also got over 50 clinics and dozens of layouts on tour and hosting operating sessions. You can read more about the clinics, layouts, and non-rail activities in this issue of *The Marker Lamp* and on the convention website, where more content is being added daily. The committee has even worked hard to keep the registration fees as low as they've been in a decade and found a great hotel at a great rate.

If that's not enough, Cinthia and Stephen Priest, Bruce Blalock, and other special guests are also expected to attend. And did I mention the return of the silent auction?

Again, I hope to see you there!

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What else is changing in the hobby? Well, the NMRA continues to evolve to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Often change is not smooth, but I believe the NMRA will succeed and continue to keep the world's greatest hobby growing for the next generations. It won't look the same as it did third years ago, but that's okay. We don't either!

Keep the fun in Model Railroading!
ML

Speaking of Change

NMRA

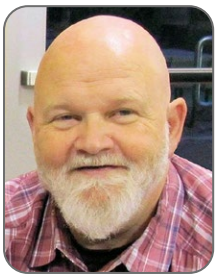
LONE STAR REGION

As you may have noticed already, the LSR Board of Directors recently voted to change the Lone Star Region's logo.

The logo was changed to remove the old NMRA logo from the center in alignment with the new NMRA brand guidelines.

Several different options were presented and reviewed, and the final version that was selected includes a sylized pair of couplers, which represent our amazing community of Model Railroading, connecting people of all sorts of interests and backgrounds together using a fairly well-known symbol of railroading that others outside the hobby may recognize.

The NMRA has requested that all regions stop using their own logos and instead use the NMRA logo with the name of their region, but the LSR Board of Directors decided unianimously to continue to use our own logo in conjuction with the NMRA logo, as you see on the cover of *The Marker Lamp* and on the LSR website, to blend the common branding with our own identity.



Events Calendar

by Bill Dryden
bdr149@airmail.net

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the *NMRA Magazine* and/or other magazines or websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are as I have found them; all are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me, via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net.

Connections 2026

Lone Star Region NMRA Convention

June 18-21, 2026

Wyndham Garden Inn
3401 South IH-35
Austin, TX 78741

Connections2026.com

Check the website for additional information as plans for the convention continue to develop.

Register Today!

Events and Shows

April

25-26 - Texas City, Texas (Galveston) **Railfest**, sponsored by the Galveston Railroad Museum. Saturday and Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. Museum members $10, adults $15, seniors $12, under 14 $12, 2 and under free. Active Miltary Free. Admission to museum and Galveston County Model Railroad Club layout included with entry. Texas City Museum, 409 6th Street, Texas City, TX. More information: https://galvestonrrmuseum.org/railfest/

25-26 - New Braunfels, Texas **New Braunfels "Jamboree" Train Show,** sponsored by the New Braunfels Railroad Museum. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4pm. Adults $10 (13 & older), child $3 (5-12 yrs). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 South Castell Ave., New Braunfels, TX. More information: https://newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/nbrr/train-shows/

May

9-10 - San Angelo, Texas **Model Train Jamboree,** sponsored by the Railway Museum of San Angelo. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $10, military and first responders 9, children 5-15 $7, kids under 5 free. Pearl on th eConcho Hotel & Conference Center, 333 Rio Concho Drive, San Angelo, TX. More information: (325) 486-2140 or https://www.sanangelorailway.org/

June

26-27 - DFW Airport, Texas **72nd National TCA Convention**, hosted by the Lone Star Division. Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport, 2334 North International Parkway, DFW Airport, TX. More information: https://www.tcatrains.org/national-tca-convention/

August

29-30 - Austin, Texas **53rd Austin Train Show,** sponsored by the Austin Model Railway Society. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $9 in advance, $10 at the door (children 12 and under free) - admission good both days. $1 discount for military and first responders. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX. More information: https://austintrainshow.org/

September

19-20 - Temple, Texas **44th Annual Temple Model Train & RPM Show,** sponsored by the Central Texas Area Model Railroaders (CentraMOD). Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $10, $1 discount for seniors, military and first responders with ID, kids 12 and under free. Frank Mayborn Center, 3303 N. 3rd Street, Temple, TX. More information: http://centramodrr.com/train-show/

October

3 - Texas City, Texas (Galveston) Texas City Train Show, sponsored by the Galveston County Model Railroad Club. Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Adults $7, seniors (60+) $5, college student or military with ID, $5, student (7-17) $4, children 6 and under free. Admission to the Galveston County Model RR Club exhibit is included with museum entry. Texas City Museum, 409 6th Street, Texas City, TX. More information: https://www.tourtexas.com/attractions/texas-city-museum-prices-and-hours

Recurring Events and Meetings

LSR Cowcatcher Division 1 - Fort Worth, TX
The Cowcatcher Division meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Texas Western Model Railroad Club, 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. You can attend in person or via Zoom. For more information regarding the Cowcatcher Division or its programs, check their website: https://www.cowcatcherdivision.org.

LSR Bayou Division 2 - Baton Rouge/New Orleans, LA
The Bayou Division meets quarterly at different locations. For information on future meetings contact Rod Fredericks at fredericks.rod@gmail.com.

LSR Trinity Division 3 - Allen, TX
The Trinity River Division meets at 10:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Christ Servant Lutheran Church, Allen Texas. Occasionally things change due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the email meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to the email list contact Robert Secrest at Robert.Secrest@hotmail.com.

LSR Cen-Tex Division 4 - Austin, TX
The Cen-Tex Division meets bi-monthly at the Austin Northwest Recreational Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX. Meetings are held at 10:00 am on the 2nd Saturday of the odd months and include clinics, show-and-tell, DCC minute, social activities and a layout open house. For more information about upcoming meetings, see https://centexnmra.org or contact director@centexnmra.org to be added to the mail list.

LSR West Texas Division 5
Division 5 holds their meetings virtually on Zoom on the 3rd Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm. Anyone that can join via Zoom is welcome to attend. Use this link to sign up for the division's monthly bulletin and keep up with events and happenings in the division: http://eepurl.com/hRLLm9 or email Headroadie2004@gmail.com.

LSR South Texas Division 6 - San Antonio, TX
The South Texas Division meets bi-monthly at the Longhorn Cafe at 12311 Nacogdoches Road in San Antonio. Meetings are held at 11:00 am on the 2nd Saturday of even months. Please come out and join us for clinics, show-and-tell, tip and tricks, and the ever-popular Deal-or-Duds, along with great fellowship and often a visit to a local home layout. For more information contact Roy Kaiser, Division Director, at fr8train@gvtc.com.

LSR Texas Gulf Division 8 - Houston, TX
The Texas Gulf Division meets in conjunction with the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Southwest Central Church of Christ, 4011 W. Bellfort Avenue, Houston, TX. The meeting starts promptly at 7 pm. We will have a clinic and a business meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Phil Stewart at pstewart1225@yahoo.com.

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Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio, TX
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call (210) 490-3554 (weekends 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; voicemail only M-F) or visit the website at https://www.txtransportationmuseum.org/ho-scale-indoor-model-railroad.

All Points Model Railroad Association - Conroe, TX
The All Points North Model Railroad Association is open to new members and has business meetings in their clubhouse on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 am. For more information, including a calendar of activities, please visit their website at http://apnmrr.org/.

Austin Model Railway Society - Austin, TX
The Austin Model Railway Society is a HO scale modular group that is open to new members and meets once a month. For more information please email Steve Jackobs at president@austinrailway.org or visit the web site www.austinrailway.org.

The Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders - Jackson, LA
Our mission: to educate and inform the public on the hobby of model railroading, associated disciplines, and to entertain both children and adults through our numerous displays featuring both model trains, real railroads and railroad safety. The Trains run from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month! THE PUBLIC IS INVITED! Located at the Republic of West Florida Historical Museum, 3406 College St, Jackson, LA. More information: http://www.greaterbrrailroaders.com/.

Houston Area "G" Gaugers - Rosenberg, TX
The Houston Area "G" Gaugers (HAGG) model train club meets at the Rosenberg Railroad Museum on the 4th Sunday of each month to run their special trains on the tracks of the Garden Railroad Exhibit. The museum also hosts fun seasonal activities for the kids on this day. Steam engines, circus trains, patriotic trains or everyone's favorite Thomas? You never know what trains you'll see. Rosenberg Railroad Museum, 1921 Avenue F, Rosenberg, TX. More information: info@RosenbergRRMuseum.org.

Houston Area Live Steamers - Hockley, TX
HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the 3rd Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Rick White at rick.white.jr@gmail.com for more information.

New Braunfels Railroad Museum - New Braunfels, TX
Kids Fun Day is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 South San Antonio Street (in the 1907 Restored Railroad Depot), New Braunfels, TX. Museum phone (830) 627-2447. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to run model trains and become a Jr. Engineer. Also among the displays at the Kids Fun Day will be a large US Army Model Garden (G) scale and Lego Trains. Visit our Steam Engine, Caboose, Dining Car (available for Birthday Parties) and Box Car. There will be other fun, train related activities and additional model trains, train artifacts, are on display our 1907 depot. The Railroad Museum opens at 10:00 am on Saturdays. For field trip scheduling and more information, call Susan Riordon (210) 542-6121, or visit us at www.nbrrm.org.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs – Irving, TX
The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site, member clubs or sponsored events.

San Antonio Model Railroad Association - San Antonio, TX
The San Antonio Model Railroad Association, SAMRA, is open to new members and meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Bob Clarke Rail Heritage Museum, 7702 Narrow Pass, Live Oak, TX. Please visit our website www.samratx.org for information about our activities and their dates and times. Also, like us on Facebook.

San Jacinto Model Railroad Club - Houston, TX
The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club meets in conjunction with the Texas Gulf Division on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Southwest Central Church of Christ, 4011 W. Bellfort Avenue, Houston, TX. The meeting starts promptly at 7 pm. We will have a clinic and a business meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Phil Stewart at pstewart1225@yahoo.com.

Texas Northern Model Railroad Club – Dallas, TX (North)
The Texas Northern Model Railroad Club business meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month and has regular meetings on Thursday evenings and most Saturdays. If you like to operate, come by on Tuesday nights to join our weekly operation session. Located in North Dallas at 11999 Plano Road., Suite 154, Dallas, TX 75243. For more information: www.texasnorthern.org.

Texas Western Model Railroad Club – Forest Hills, TX
The Texas Western Model Railroad Club meets for its business meeting every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. The Club is located at 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twmrc.org or email cdo@twmc.org.

Excursion Train Trips

Austin Steam Train; Cedar Park, TX; (512) 477-8468; www.austinsteamtrain.org

Grapevine Vintage Railroad; Grapevine, TX; (817) 410-3185; www.gvrr.com

Old Hickory Railroad; Jackson, LA; (225) 634-7397; www.louisianasteamtrain.com

Texas State Railroad; Palestine & Rusk, TX; (888) 987-2461; www.texasstaterr.com

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Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event. Column submission deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August, and November. Publication of the Marker Lamp is the following month. ML

Whose Track Goes Here?

Can you figure out whose layout this photo is from?

If you're the first person to email the correct answer
to rrrduino@huntatrophy.com you'll win a campfire lighting Arduino!

The photo in the December issue was of the narrow gauge portion of Mike Mackey's Texas & St. Louis.

2026 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

CHATTANOOGA, TN
JULY 27 - AUGUST 2, 2026

The NMRA National Convention is coming to Chattanooga for the first time ever in 2026! The Southeastern Region is excited to host NMRA members from around the world in the Scenic City. We have a week full of fun activities planned including:

Layout Tours - Prototype Tours - Steam-Powered Excursions and Dinner Train
Non-Rail Tours and other Activities - Operating Sessions - Special Interest Groups
Railroad Historical Societies - Modeling with the Masters® - Celebration of Models
National Train Show - Banquet

Register today at nmra2026.org!

All Aboard for Connections 2026

by Peter Kazmir, Convention Publicity Chair

The LSR Convention brings together model railroaders from across the region every year for a rich blend of learning, inspiration, community, and fun — and this year's edition, Connections 2026, promises to be as robust as ever.

At the heart of the convention, which will be held June 18-21 in Austin, are a wide range of clinics — engaging presentations led by a variety of hobbyists, including at least 10 Master Model Railroaders™. These sessions will cover everything from layout design and operations to scenery, prototype modeling, and newer techniques such as 3D printing and animation using Arduinos. Whether you're just getting started or refining a lifelong passion, the clinics offer practical insights and fresh ideas to take back to your own railroad.

Beyond the clinic rooms, the convention opens the doors to dozens of the finest model railroad layouts in the area. Attendees will have the opportunity not only to tour these impressive layouts, but also to participate in operating sessions, experiencing firsthand the challenge and enjoyment of realistic railroad operations.

Together, the clinics and layout experiences make Connections 2026 a unique opportunity to learn, connect, and immerse yourself in the hobby.

A Full Slate of Can't-Miss Clinics

This year's clinic program showcases the full breadth of the hobby, with a diverse lineup of sessions designed to inform, challenge, and inspire. From practical, hands-on modeling techniques to in-depth explorations of railroad history and operations, there's something here for every interest and experience level.

Operations-minded attendees will find plenty to engage them, with clinics focused on dispatching and on expanding operations to include advanced roles that are often overlooked on model railroads. Lou Adler, MMR, will share tips for incorporating prototypical operations on a small layout, while Don Winn, MMR, will help you choose the right cars for your railroad.

For those drawn to the prototype, sessions will explore topics like U.S. railroads during the World Wars, bridge design, and the Pennsylvania Railroad. Cliff Scherer, author of The Marker Lamp's excellent Getting Started with Model Railroading column, will present a session on the Texas Hill Country short line that he models, and LSR President Bob Barnett, MMR, will present a clinic on

the passenger trains that ran to Texas in the 20th century.

In addition, modelers will also find a wealth of technique-driven clinics, covering everything from layout planning with Don Winn, MMR, to techniques for making a small layout feel much larger, presented by one of the LSR's more recent MMRs, Steve Jackobs.

If you're interested in electronics and programming, you'll find plenty to explore. Speed Muller will present a "Make and Take" style clinic where you can build and program an Arduino-based circuit to animate city lights on your layout. Clinics about JMRI, DCC, and LCC are also planned.

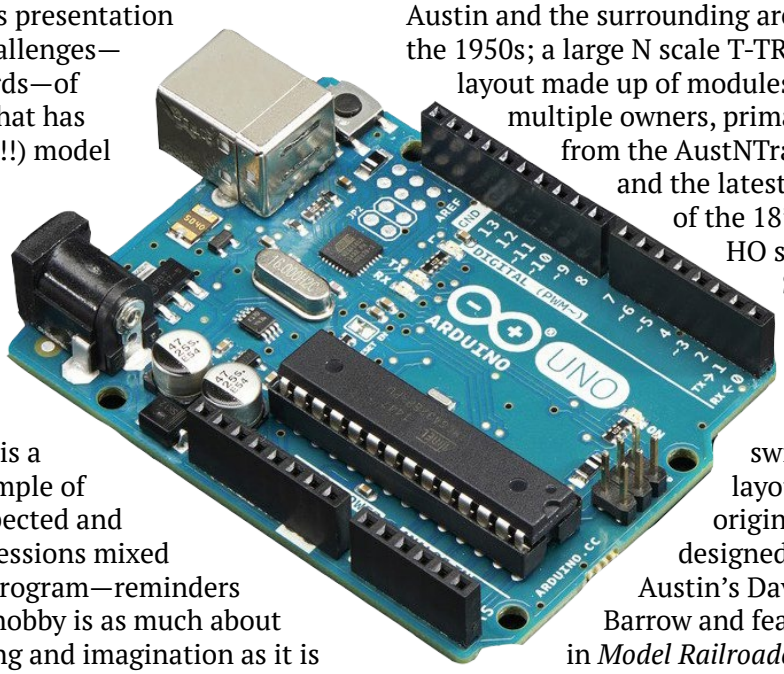
Eric Smith will present an updated clinic on 3D printing for beginners, while David Petersen will demonstrate how he uses 3D printing to create 1910s-era wood boxcars.

Speed's clinic won't be the only "Make and Take" clinic — Duane Richardson, MMR, will be holding another in his popular series from recent years; this time inviting participants to build a gas station — in any scale!

There will be several clinics about model railroads to inspire you, including a presentation on Rod Stewart's Grand Street & Three Rivers Railroad by Steve Crise and version 4 of the River City Union Terminal, by Bob Barnett, MMR.

And we should call out two of the special guests at this year's convention, Cinthia and Stephen Priest. Stephen is an MMR, and Cinthia (below) is close to completing

hers (and may do so before the convention). Together, they will present several clinics, including sessions on scratchbuilding freight cars, diesel service facilities, and a can't-miss presentation on the challenges—and rewards—of a family that has built 17 (!!!) model railroads.



That last topic is a great example of the unexpected and creative sessions mixed into the program—reminders that this hobby is as much about storytelling and imagination as it is about precision and craftsmanship.

This is just a sampling of the 50+ clinics planned for Connections 2026. Whether you're looking to sharpen your skills, deepen your knowledge, or simply come away with new ideas, the clinics at Connections 2026 are well worth the trip.

A Lineup of Layouts to Experience

There will be dozens of layouts to experience in the Austin area as well—including three at the convention hotel.

These include the 50' x 24' Austin Model Railway Society HO scale modular layout, depicting downtown Austin and the surrounding area in the 1950s; a large N scale T-TRAK layout made up of modules from multiple owners, primarily from the AustNTrak club; and the latest version of the 18' x 2' HO scale South Plains switching layout, originally designed by Austin's David Barrow and featured in *Model Railroader*, and now owned and used by LSR Cen-Tex Division 4 for education and outreach.

The AMRS layout will be included in formal operating sessions, while the South Plains will be available for walk-up operations—for as short or as long as you'd like.

Beyond the layouts at the convention hotel, many layouts of all sizes and scales across the area will be open for tours and operating sessions. You may have noticed the beautiful winter scene from David and Sam

Bob Fricke's On30 Scale Denver & Rio Grande Western

Nicastro's 60' x 26' HO (and HOn3) scale D&RGW Moffat Route, featured on the front cover of this issue. The December and September covers also featured layouts that will be part of the convention: Brian Helms' 43' x 32' HO scale Dallas & Western (December cover) and Wayne Jones' 11' x 9' HO scale Franklington Crossing (September cover). Steve Nelson's 40' x 30' HO scale MKT Sedalia Division is also featured (corn field and all) on the front page of the convention website, connections2026.com. These are just three of the many outstanding model railroads that will be included.

In total, 25 layouts are scheduled to be featured, with many also hosting operating sessions. These include HO, N, On30, Proto:48, and Sn3 scales, modeling regions across Texas and Louisiana, as well as New York, New Jersey, California, Pennsylvania, Colorado, and more. Most are fully or largely scenicked, while a few are in earlier phases of construction—offering a chance to see different techniques and approaches in action.

Jack Merkel's HO Scale Lone Star & Santa Fe

Operating sessions are scheduled for Thursday evening, all day Friday, and even on the way home Sunday. Layouts at the convention will be open throughout the week, with off-site layouts available on Saturday and again on Sunday for those heading home.

Whether you're there to observe, learn, or take the throttle yourself, the layout tours and operating sessions are a highlight of Connections 2026.

Get the Latest Details and Register Today

For full details on clinics, layouts, lodging, and other activities, be sure to visit the convention website at connections2026.com, where schedules and information are continually updated. If you're planning to attend, now is a great time to register—early-bird pricing ends April 30. With a full slate of clinics and an outstanding lineup of layouts to experience, Connections 2026 is shaping up to be a convention you won't want to miss. **ML**

Left:
Van Henry's HO Scale
Pennsylvania Railroad

Middle:
Roy Kaiser's HO Scale
Cincinnati & Virginia Railway

Bottom:
Jim Zwernemann's Proto:48 (O) Scale
T&NO and MKT

Plenty of Non-Rail Activities in Austin

by Divina Gato-Hogno, LSR Non-Rail Chair

If you're coming to Connections 2026 but are looking for activities beyond railroading, there will be plenty to do.

Starting Thursday evening, we'll have our traditional Meet and Greet. Enjoy cookies and refreshments and say hello to friends you might not have seen in a while.

Thursday evening we'll also make some easy costume jewelry.

On Friday morning we'll be going on a self-drive tour of Austin. The plan is to tour the Texas State Capitol (free), followed by a Lake Austin boat cruise ($39) and a visit to the Museum of Illusions - Austin ($38).

There is so much to see and do in Austin, so feel free to break into groups and explore. (There is a list of other attractions—plus great nearby restaurants and stores—on the convention website, connections2026.com.)

By popular demand, Friday night will feature a great game of Bingo. Everyone is welcome, but come early since space is limited.

Saturday morning we'll continue working on our costume jewelry and will also make some seasonal wire wreaths with deco mesh, like the ones shown here.

And of course, Saturday evening is the social hour and the banquet.

Register now for the convention—it's going to be a lot of fun! **ML**

Join the Lone Star Region
Member Directory

Instant Church Directory
Social Networking
Open

The LSR has a member directory! **Joining is completely optional,**
and only the information you choose to provide will be included.
For privacy, the directory is only accessible to those who participate.

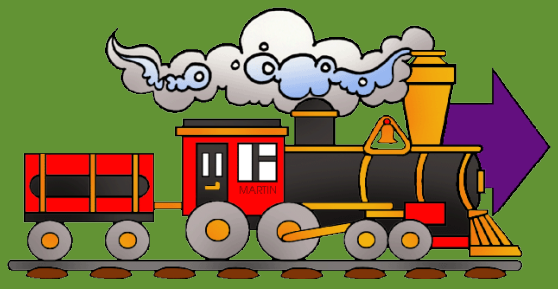
We encourage all members to join, especially if you're interested in visiting other model railroaders while traveling in the region -- this directory will be a great resource!

To join or if you have questions, contact Chuck Lind at chucklind46@gmail.com.
Once he adds you to the system, you'll be able to access the directory using the **Instant Church Directory** app on your smartphone or tablet.

To get started: Install the Instant Church Directory app. Create a login using the same email address you gave Chuck. (**The emails must match, or you won't be able to log in.**) Choose a password with at least 8 characters, including 2 capital letters, numbers, or symbols. Check your email (including your spam folder) for a confirmation message and click the link to verify your account.

Once verified, you can browse the directory, update your own information and photo, and choose how much (or how little) you want to share.

We hope you'll join and help us build a valuable resource for all LSR members!



Wanted!
Nominees for the LSR Youth Award

Who: Any boy or girl 18 years old or younger with an interest in model railroading

Where: One nominee from each LSR Division

A past awardee: May be renominated for another year if they meet the qualifications specified in the LSR Constitution. **Contact Don Winn** donswinn@gmail.com

How: Fill out the special Youth Award Membership Form available on https://lsrnmra.org/

When: Submit your nomination to your LSR Division Director **today**!

For more information contact:
Don Winn, Youth Chairman: donswinn@gmail.com

Controlling Your Turnouts

by Cliff Scherer
gettingstarted@centexnmra.org

Trains follow a given path strictly based on the two rails that keep the wheel flanges in line. When a train needs to move to a different set of rails, a switch/turnout is required. In the last *Getting Started* we laid track including installing turnouts. This time we will provide a way to line those turnouts for the trains.

Switch vs. Turnout: What Difference Does it Make?

Most modelers use the terms switch and turnout interchangeably. For our purposes we'll distinguish between them to keep things straight:

Turnout: the complete set of rails, frog, points and ties that guide an engine and cars onto one of two, or sometimes more different routes.

Switch: the mechanical device that moves the point rails from one side to the other. On a model railroad this also includes electrical connections and electronics that are used with powered switches.

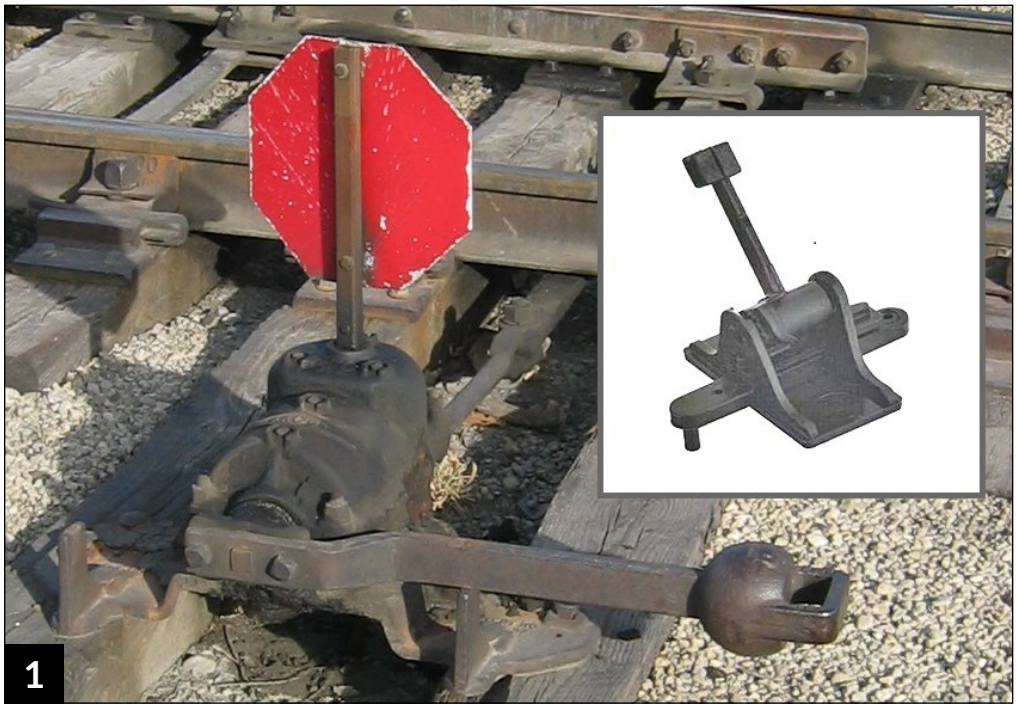
Types of Switches for Model Railroads

Modelers have a number of options when it comes to switches and there are reasons for choosing one over the other in specific situations. Let's look at some types and when they are best used.

Manual Switches

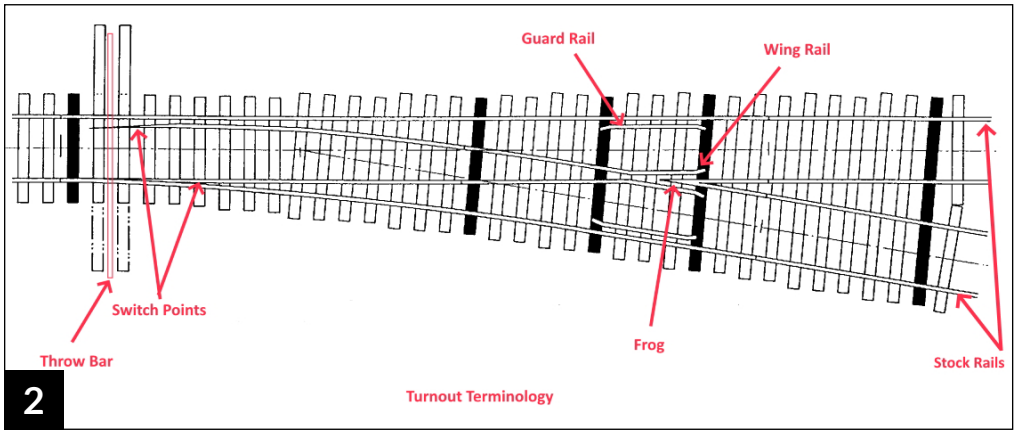
Sprung or Snap Action Turnouts

Many manufacturers make their turnouts with small springs that allow



1

A common switch on prototype railroads is the ground throw shown here with a target (red marker) indicating the switch alignment. The inset shows an HO scale Caboose Industries ground throw, which is a common model railroad equivalent to the prototype.



2

As a refresher, this image shows the major parts of a turnout. The switch (not shown) would connect to either end the throw bar. It serves to push or pull the points against the desired rail.

the points to be moved with a finger to one side or the other. They are held tight against the stock rail with an internal spring until you push them toward the other side where they will spring against the other rail.

Pros: there is really no switch involved (your finger does the work) so you save time on installation. Because there is not a switch, less space is taken up on the layout.

Cons: The springs can break with time and are very difficult to change. Needing to touch the turnout means operators are putting their hand into the layout which can result in damage to details. Constantly touching the rails puts skin oils and dirt where engines need to be making electrical contact.

Caboose Industries Ground Throws

These plastic ground throws **(1)** have been around since 1975 and have become somewhat of a standard among modelers. They are relatively durable and relatively easy to install.

Pros: They just work – and they work well. While they are way oversized compared to the prototype, they are still relatively unobtrusive on the layout, especially once ballast, scenery and details are in place.

Cons: They require the operator to reach into the layout. They can get in the way, especially with parallel track and tight yard clearances.

Blue Point Manual Turnout Controller

The Blue Point Turnout Controller **(3)** is like the missing link between manual control and powered switch control. The Blue Point installs in a similar fashion to the Circuitron Tortoise powered switches, but it uses a "flex link" (choke cable for those who can remember what that is) to operate the switch via a push/pull knob and mechanical connection. The switch is mounted below the layout with a spring wire passing up through a hole in the turnout throwbar. Despite the DPDT switch, it is controlled manually and moves the points without electric current. Use of the DPDT switch is optional for controlling other items on the layout.

Pros: no "out of scale" switch on top of the layout. Remote control knob keeps hands out of the layout. Inclusion of a 5amp DPDT switch is a real plus with lots of flexibility. These are well suited to modular layouts where the module can be turned on its side and the Blue Point installed with better access. It's easy to install dual flex links so that the Blue Point can be controlled from either side of the module.

Cons: Somewhat time-consuming to install, some say more than what is required for a Tortoise switch machine install. The flex link and knob can be finicky especially as it stretches or loses alignment over time resulting in the need to do some work under the layout.

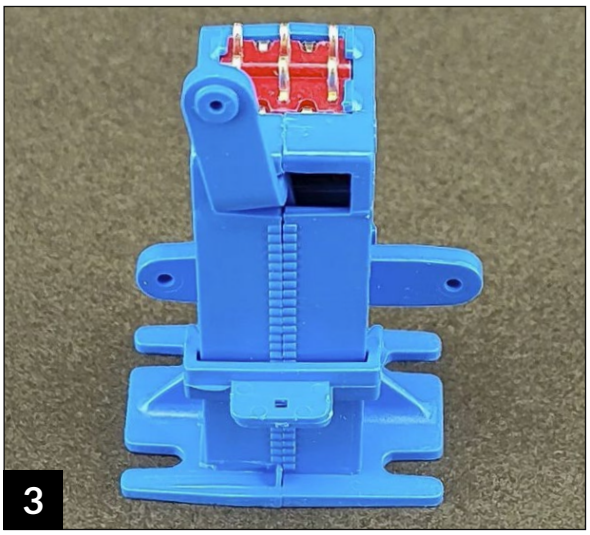
Powered Switches

Circuitron Tortoise Switch Machine

If the Caboose Ground Throw has become ubiquitous in manual switch control, the Tortoise **(4)** is the equivalent in powered switch control. It became available in 1978, 3 years after the Caboose Ground Throw. Since then, it has been used not only for controlling turnouts, but also for controlling semaphores, grade crossing gates and other animations.

Pros: Adds the ability to control turnouts from remote or multiple locations. No hands are reaching into the layout. The device is relatively robust although being mechanical they can wear out. Once correctly installed they rarely need attention until time for replacement. Replacement is relatively easy.

Cons: The Tortoise is generally mounted under the layout and relatively precise placement is critical. This can make it difficult for some to reach the area for installation. Some modelers say the internal SPDT electrical contacts can wear out prematurely (these



Blue Point Turnout Controller. This view is looking at the bottom of the device. It would be mounted with the flat side facing up underneath the layout directly below the turnout. Note the red piece with 6 electrical contacts. This is a DPDT switch that handles 5 amps allowing the Blue Point to control frog power, track power, or other electrical tasks.

A Circuitron Tortoise powered switch machine shown installed. The cross section shows how the spring wire extends up through the layout and through a hole in the turnout throwbar. This wire acts as a lever to move the points back and forth. Also note the electrical contacts on the bottom. There are 2 SPDT switches that can switch 4 amps but only carry 1 amp of current.

are for ancillary electrical switching and don't impact the ability of the turnout to be thrown). Thick sub-roadbed can create problems for the Tortoise to create proper tension on the points, but this problem applies to all undermount switches whether powered or manual. Controlling with non-latching push buttons requires intermediary electronics, such as an accessory decoder or a diode matrix. This is because the Tortoise uses a DC stall motor which remains powered at all times even once its gear has reached the end of its travel. This keeps tension on the points by keeping torque applied through the stalled motor. The motor is designed to handle this without overheating, but it means that momentary contact switches will not work well with the Tortoise unless some intermediary electronics are worked in.

Other Powered Switch Options

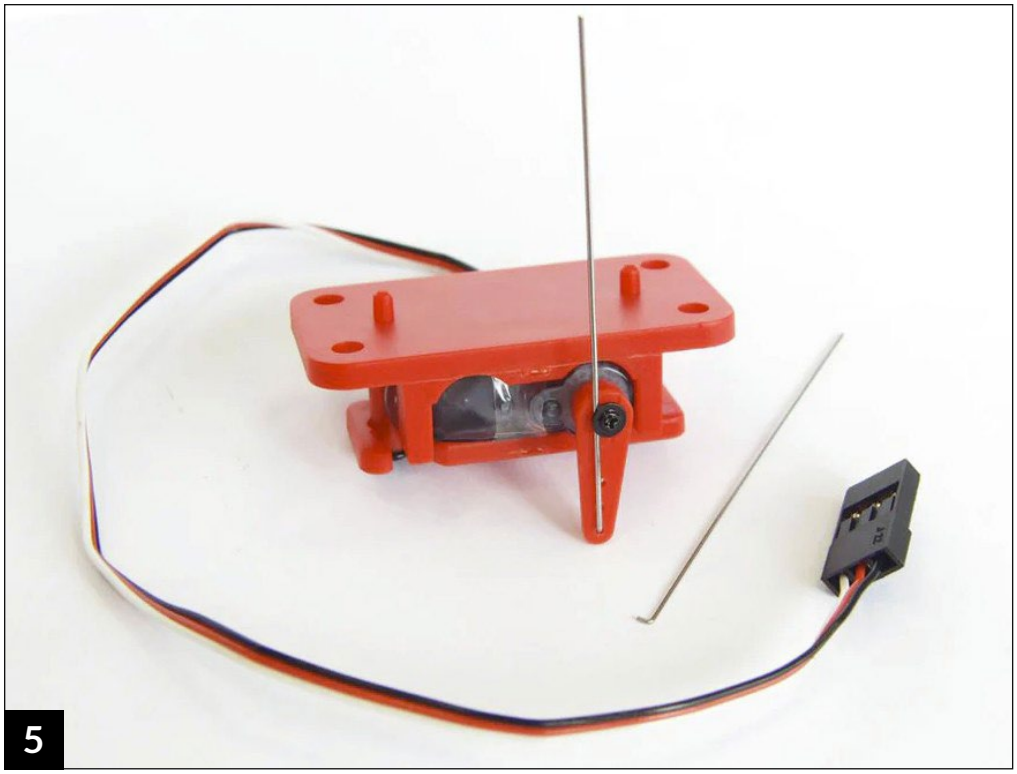
Several manufacturers make switch machines either with stall motor technology like the Tortoise or in the case of Peco, using twin electromagnetic coils to throw the turnout. In addition, there are switch machines available that use a servo to move the points. Servos **(5)** have the advantage of being smaller than machines like the Tortoise and lend themselves to centralized or computerized layout control systems such as Layout Command Control (LCC).

Caboose Ground Throws: Selection and Installation

Since we are discussing small and mid-size layouts in this series, let's look closer at the commonly used Caboose Ground Throw. This switch is great for the size of layout we are targeting.

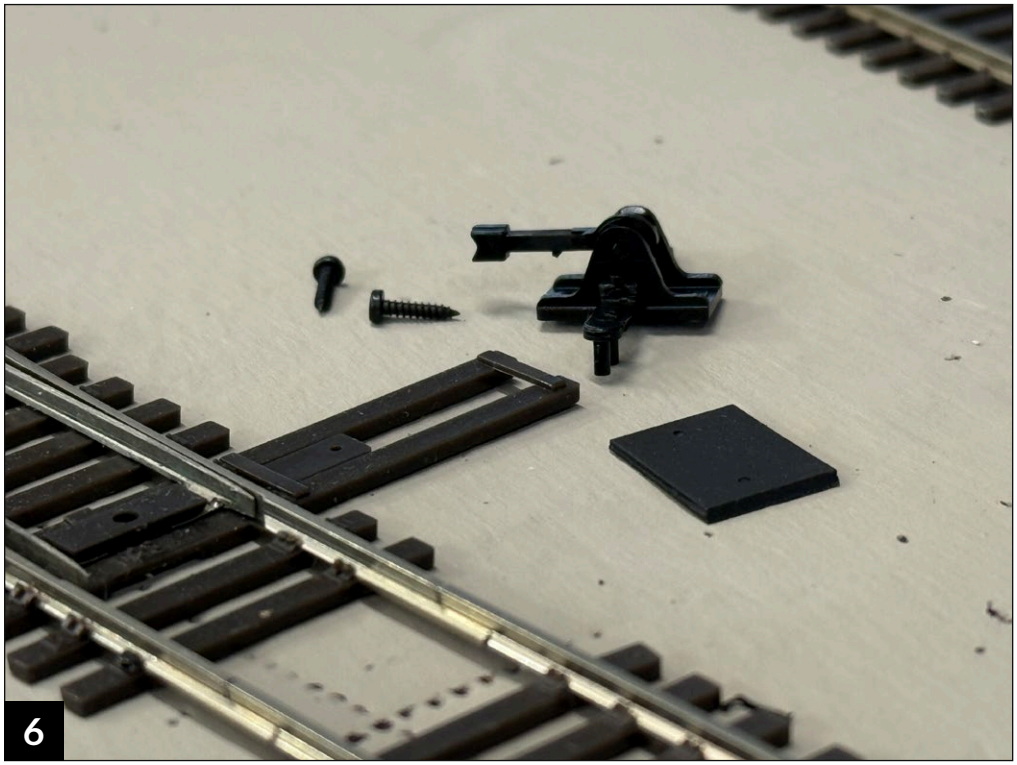
Selecting the Caboose Ground Throw Model

Caboose Ground Throws (GT's) come in varying sizes by scale and in 2 types: Sprung and Rigid. Sprung GT's have internal springs to provide



5

Servos like this one from Piko are small and integrate well with layout automation. This is meant to be mounted under the layout with the spring wire extending up through a hole in the turnout throwbar.



6

This is an N scale Caboose Ground Throw (model 206S) shown with the mounting screws and the styrene mounting plate. The mounting plate is cut from .040" styrene sheet with scissors and painted flat black.

tension between the point and stock rail. Rigid GT's have no tensioning mechanism and should be installed with a spring wire between the GT and the throw bar.

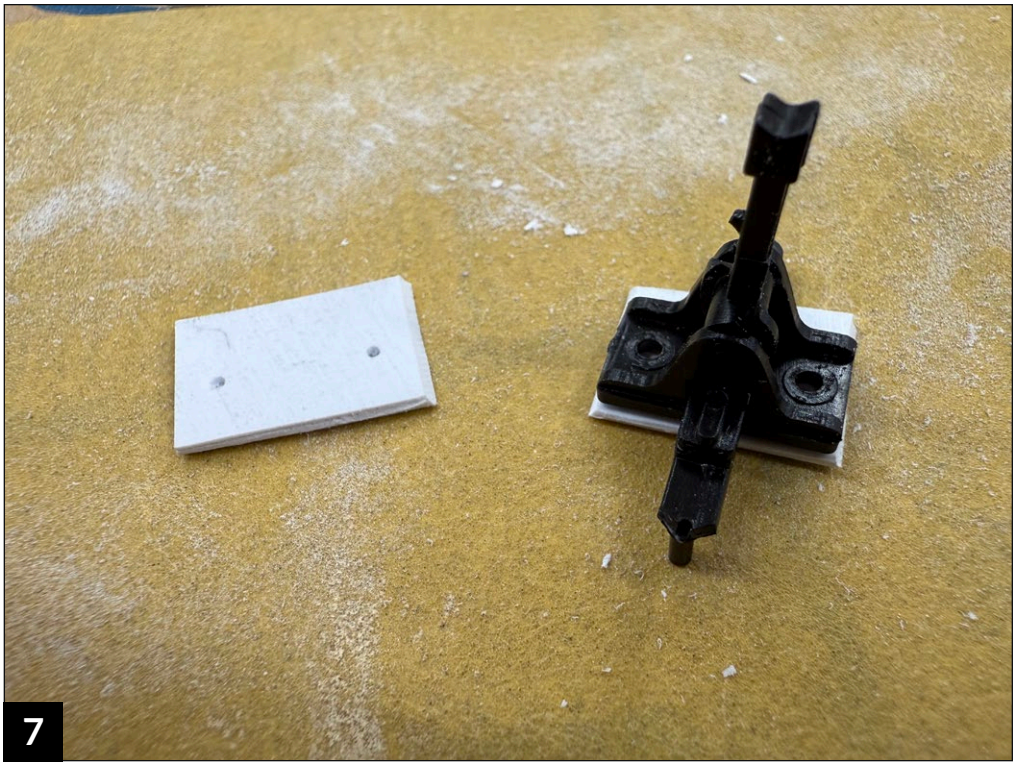
Most HO and N scale installations will use Sprung GT's. You might consider a rigid GT if you are mounting the GT some distance from the throw bar with a link between the GT and throwbar; however, even in this situation the sprung GT's usually work fine at least in HO scale.

Considerations for Scale

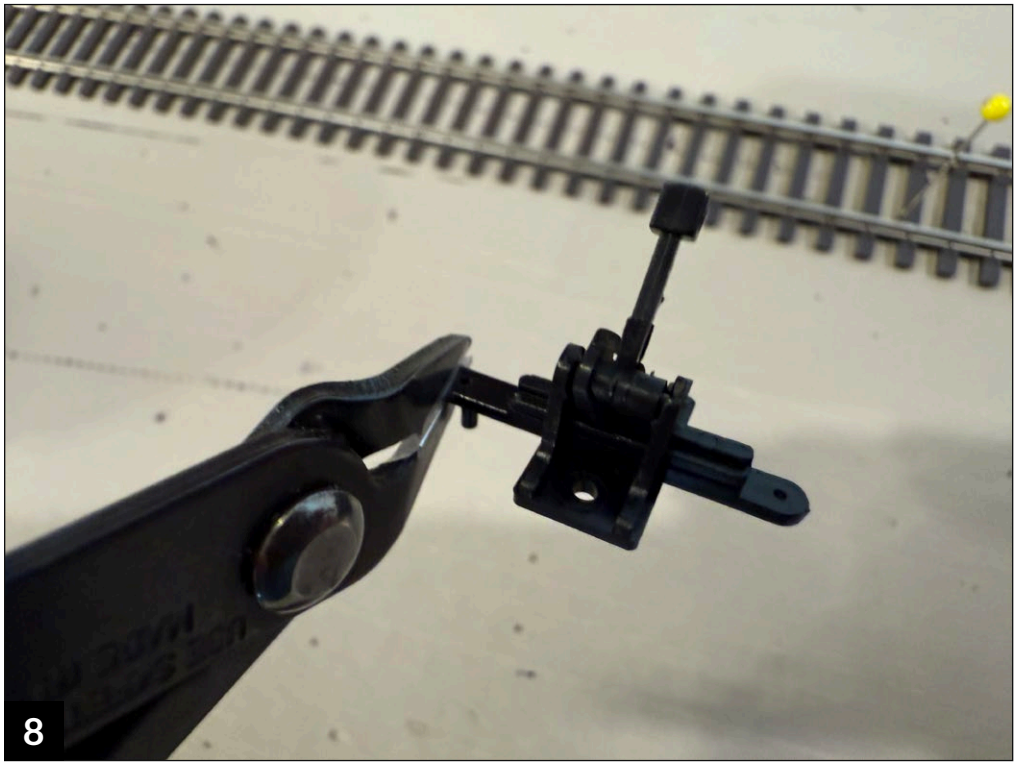
N scale modelers will obviously use the N scale GT's, but HO modelers can choose to install HO scale or go with N scale for a better look **(6)**. When considering a different scale GT than your track, the compromise is in the distance of the throw. An HO scale GT has .190" of travel when moving the points from one side to the other. An N scale GT has .135" of travel. A common travel for the points on HO scale turnouts is between .093" and .125". This means that an N scale GT will work on most HO scale turnouts, but the installation must be more precise.

Before deciding to use N scale GT's on your HO scale layout, measure the travel on the points for the turnouts you are using.

S scale modelers will find their scale is supported in the same model GT as HO scale so it will look better on an S scale layout. O scale GT's have their own part numbers and are also available in sprung and rigid.



The styrene mounting plate will need to be drilled to match the mounting screw holes in the ground throw. Use a number 68 bit (.031"). The ground throw will be screwed to the mounting plate with #0 screws. The soft styrene does not need to be tapped – the screws will tap their own threads.



The N scale ground throw has 2 pins to connect to the turnout throw bar and only the one closest to the ground throw is needed. Cut off the end of the connector just behind the outer pin.

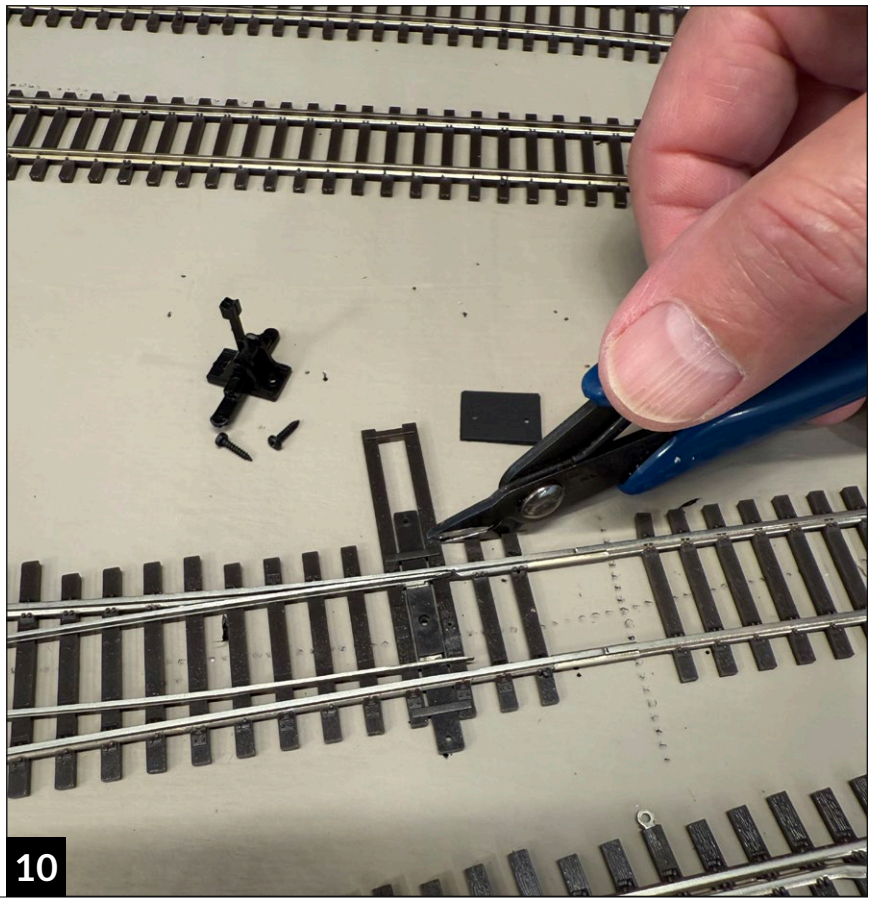
Installing an N scale Caboose Ground Throw on an HO scale Layout

Caboose Ground Throws should be installed square to the rails and are correctly positioned when the ground throw arm is vertical, and the points are at the exact center between the stock rails. They should also be installed in a manner that allows for easy replacement if needed.

In this installation we will make and use a mounting plate **(7)** to both help with precise placement and to make future replacement easy.

9

These two ground throws have been installed; the image shows how the ground throws are put in precise position. The points are held in the exact center of the stock rails using .060" styrene sheet and the ground throws themselves have the throw arm positioned exactly vertical.



10

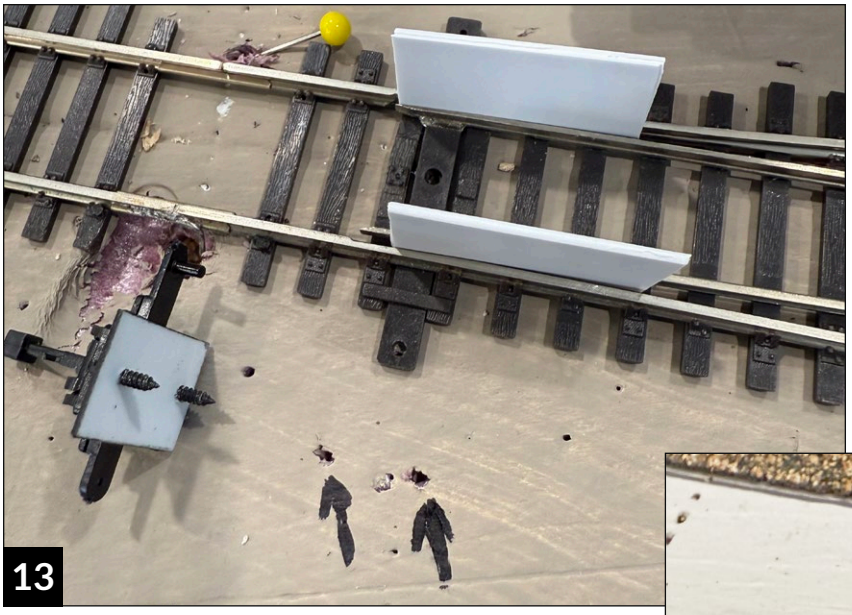
This turnout has extended ties called headblock ties. These are prototypical and can be seen in Figure 1. Unfortunately, they will be in the way for mounting our ground throw, so they need to be cut off. Temporarily position the ground throw as shown in figure 5 to determine where to cut off the headblock ties. They will look best if left to run just up to the mounting plate.

11

Part of the secret in getting precise positioning is the use of a quick-grab multi-surface adhesive to allow a small amount of re-positioning before the adhesive sets. We will use Liquid Nails Fuze-It for this purpose. This adhesive is a great alternative to wood glues in many model railroad situations. It will allow re-positioning of items for about 5 minutes after application and will cure enough to operate the ground throws within an hour or so.

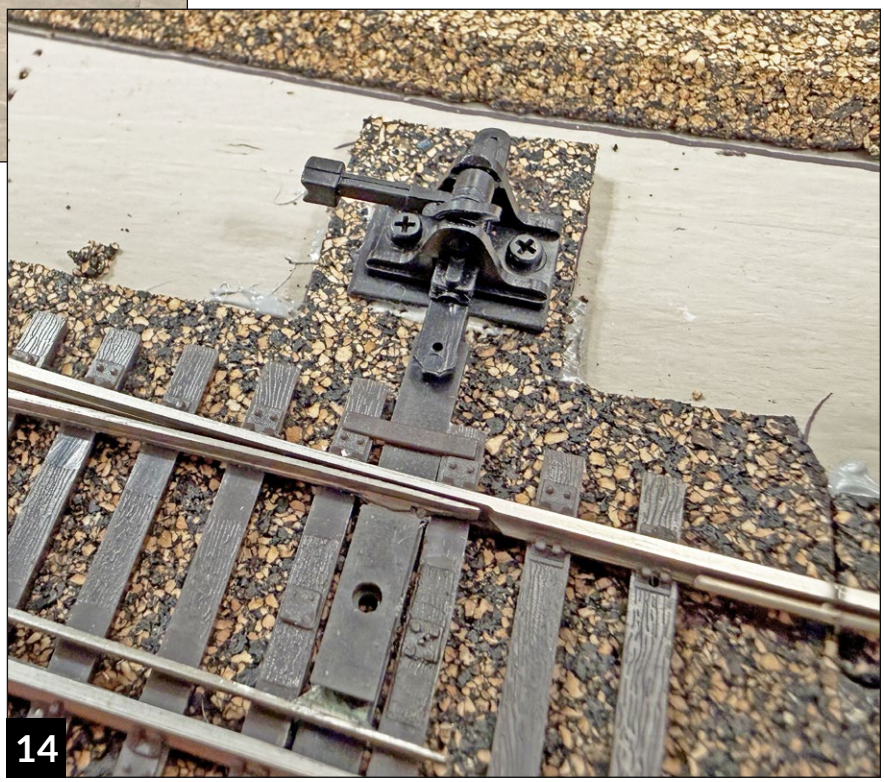
Here the ground throw has been screwed to the mounting plate before the mounting plate is glued to the cork. Use #0 screws and only snug them down, but do not overtighten as there is very little plastic for the threads to bite in the mounting plate. The holes in the cork are much larger than the screws. They are just relief in the cork so that when the mounting plate is glued down, it can be moved around a bit to create a precise alignment between the ground throw and the turnout. The screws only hold the ground throw to the mounting plate, not to the cork. The adhesive does all the work in holding the mounting plate in place. If the ground throw needs to be replaced in the future, it can simply be unscrewed.

12



13

Part of the secret in getting precise positioning is the use of a quick-grab multi-surface adhesive to allow a small amount of re-positioning before the adhesive sets. We will use Liquid Nails Fuze-It for this purpose. This adhesive is a great alternative to wood glues in many model railroad situations. It will allow re-positioning of items for about 5 minutes after application and will cure enough to operate the ground throws within an hour or so.

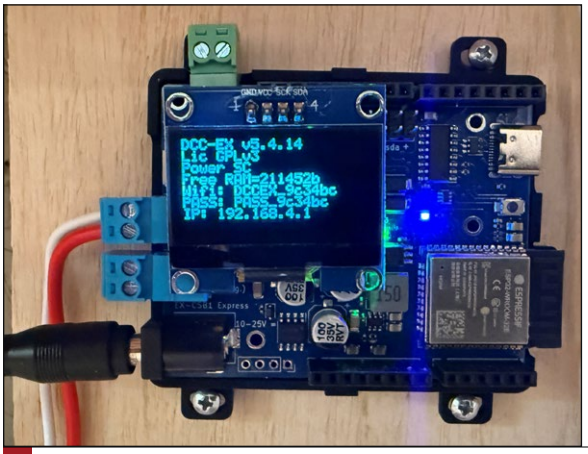


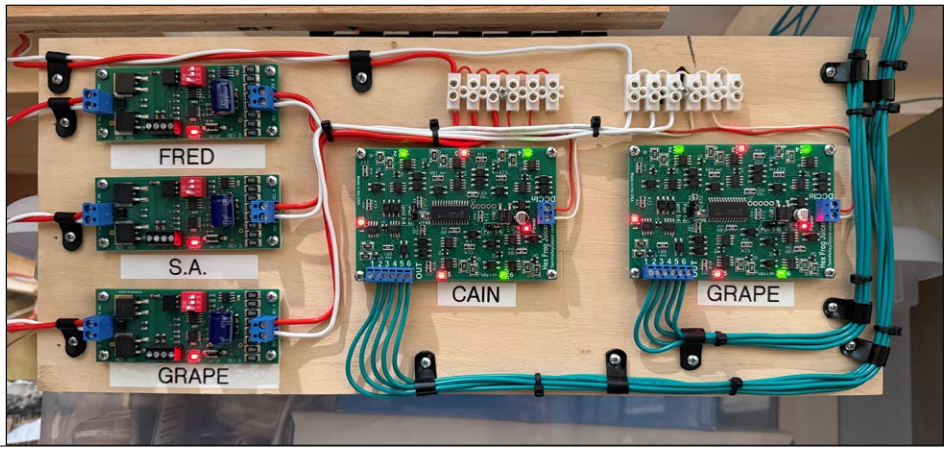
14

The completed installation. Notice there's a little adhesive squeeze-out around the mounting plate. This can be hidden by ballast and it's good to make sure you have plenty of adhesive under the mounting plate. Trains can now be sent down the correct route with a simple throw of the ground throw handle (although those points could stand to be filed down a bit).

Coming Next Time: Layout Wiring and DCC

If you have comments, questions, or suggestions about this column, please email me here: gettingstarted@centexnmra.org **ML**





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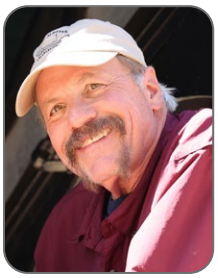


Modeling with a Purpose, Part 2: The Livingston Model Railroad Club

by Bob Barnett, MMR
LSR President & Historian

Many folks reading this may think I didn't know there was a model railroad club up in Livingston. Well, sort of. This is not Livingston, Texas (about 80 miles north of Houston) but Livingston, Montana about *2,300* miles north of Houston.

The basement of the old boiler room at the Northern Pacific's Livingston, Montana depot houses the Livingston Model Railroad Club. The club was formed in 1994 and has held open houses for the citizens of Livingston area for many years in addition to being a tourist attraction.

Livingston was the major shop town for the Northern Pacific in the days of steam and was the junction point for the Gardner Branch, the line that served the tourist trade to Yellowstone National Park. The Gardner Branch extended 55 miles to the south from the NP Main line at Livingston to the town of Gardner at the boundary of Yellowstone National Park.

Yellowstone was America's first National Park and service to the park was an early example that would be followed by several western railroads that served the area of other national parks.

The Livingston club, like several other well-known clubs, doubles as a model railroad club and a museum/history center for the area where it is located. Member Sylva Ympa and her husband Dewey have made a mission of accurately modeling the Yellowstone Gateway in Gardner.

They have carefully modeled several buildings in Gardner from visits and from old photographs. In fact, Silvia modeled the famed Gateway Arch twice in order to get the more accurate hand laid stone look.

The Yellowstone Gateway Arch was constructed in 1903-04. You can still drive through it today. Modeled by Sylvia Ympa.

Many of the buildings modeled in the scene still exist including the Gateway Arch. The cornerstone of the Gateway Arch was dedicated by Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 during a three week visit to the park by the President. Even though the entry road has been diverted a few feet away due the arch's restricted width, today thousands of tourists each year get their pictures made at the arch just as Teddy Roosevelt did in 1903.

Other members who contributed to the Gardner scene were Ferris Jackson, Warren Case and George Brockleehurst. (And in similar fashion to my recent article on SAMRA, I am sure I've left other modelers off this list and apologize to those whose names were omitted.)

On open house days you can usually find Sylvia sitting in the Gardner Room of the layout answering questions. One of her favorite stories is when a small child pointed to one of the houses on Gardner and said "that's my house". Of course, the thought "sure kid". However, when his mother came over to look, sure enough they had lived in that house in Gardner when he as younger.

The excellent modeling of the stone buildings is so good it caught the attention of some visiting NMRA

members, and with the proper write-ups Sylvia was awarded the Master Builder-Structures, Master Builder Scenery, Model Railroad Prototype Modeler and Model Railroad Electrical Engineer. Her husband Dewey was awarded the Master Builder-Structures as well.

Other members hauled dirt from the Gardner area so the scenery colors would be correct. Roaming herds of buffalo and elk are present in the scene just as they are in the real Gardner/Yellowstone Park area.

The Gardner/Yellowstone portion of the layout is featured in the first room the visitor encounters. The main line, mountain scenes, major yard and shop buildings are seen in the next room.

The scenes are set in the 1950's but newer rolling stick is seen on the line in accordance with members areas of interest. BNSF unit trains complete with Montana Rail Link "pusher engines" cam be seen on open house night and operations.

A third viewing room contains an N-Scale layout and large Lionel O-Scale layout.

My thanks go to Robert Debrowsky and Mr. Hermes for detailed guide tour this year and to Sylvia Ympes, Ferris Jackson and George Brockleehurst for answering my numerous questions in past years. **ML**

The Gardner, Montana Depot. The original curved along the return loop just as shown here. The second platform on the left was for the Yellowstone Tour busses. The model was built by Dewey Ympa.

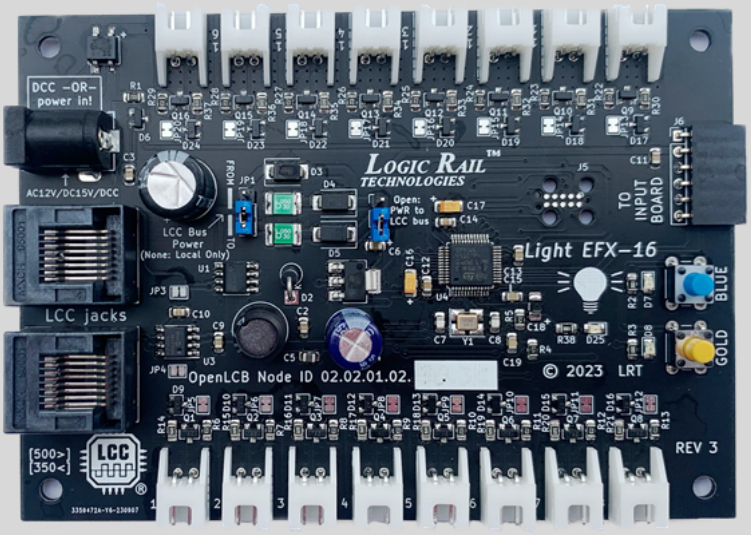
The Gardner General Store. All stone work on these structures is individually placed stone.

Stone warehouse in Gardner. Note the roaming buffalo herd in the background.

Bridge over the Yellowstone River on the Main Line east of Livingston, Montana

Montana Rail Link helper engines for Bozeman Pass fuel up in Livingston just as the real things did just east of the layout location.

Light EFX-16



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Board of Directors Meeting Notes

Minutes of the Lone Star Region Board Meeting

Meeting held in Austin, Texas and via Zoom January 31, 2026

The Annual January Board Meeting was called to order by President Bob Barnett, MMR at 1:05 pm.

Attendance

All officers, directors, and committee chairs were present except:

Voting Board Members:

- Dick Brannan, Division 1 Director
  - (Proxy: Deborah Gifford)
- (Vacant) Division 5 Director
  - (No Proxy)
- Don Kimmell, Division 7 Director
  - (No Proxy)
- Phil Stewart, Division 8 Director
  - (No Proxy)
- Michael Harang, Director At Large and Photography Chair
  - (Proxy: Peter Kazmir)

Non-Voting Board Members:

- Riley Triggs, Publicity Chair
- Divina Gato-Hogno, Non-Rail Chair

There were several guests, including a delegation from the 2026 LSR Convention Committee.

Motion 1: Reading and Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Steve Sandifer, MMR provided a motion, and Doug Taylor seconded, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the June 2025 Board of Directors meeting and to approve as published in the September 2025 Marker Lamp. The motion passed unopposed.

Board Reports

Reports were provided by all officers, directors, and committee chairs except for Ray Byer, Roy Kaiser, Don Kimmell, Jeff Palmer, Divina Gato-Hogno, Riley Triggs, and Speed Muller.

Reports are listed after the Meeting Notes. No corrections were requested.

Motion 2: Acceptance of Board Reports

Doug Taylor provided a motion, and Deborah Gifford seconded, to accept the board reports as presented. The motion passed unopposed.

Old Business

2025 Convention Review - Bayou Division 2

Rod Fredericks reported that the convention was successful. Good feedback was received from a number of folks, and the convention was profitable; the LSR received $1430.46 in total net income from the convention. Bob Barnett thanked Rod and the team in Baton Rouge for their hard work and agreed the convention was well done, especially for being in a more outlying area of the Region. Rod also reported that the group in New Orleans expressed interest in hosting a convention in the near future.

2026 Convention Update - Cen-Tex Division 4

Plans for the Austin Convention are proceeding well. Registration is open and programming is well on the way to being filled out, with prototype tours, clinics, and layouts signed up. Expect more detailed programming will start appearing on the website shortly. They are meeting roughly monthly, but shortly will move to bi-weekly meetings as the event gets closer. Guests will be Cinthia and Steven Priest (who are both expected to be MMRs by the convention) as guest clinicians and Bruce Blalock as keynote speaker.

2027 Convention Update - Trinity River Division 3

Jeff Rykel reports they have narrowed the search down for the location for the convention down to two candidates. They hope to have the location selected within the next week or so.

2028 Convention Update - South Texas Division 6

Don Winn reports that he and Roy are doing some initial exploration for a location.

Website Updates

Peter Kazmir reviewed his officer report (published later in this issue), including updates on the various LSR websites.

Jeff Palmer expressed concern that the new website was brought up without all of the content being live first. Peter explained this was done because of the timing with our

domain and host renewal (which was in November) - we didn't want to have to pay for renewal for another year. After it went live, we made sure the contest rules were available on the convention website and also that all old content was available via a link on the new website.

Directory Update

Bob gave an update on the LSR directory. Many members have contributed content to it and it is being used. He reminded us that the site can be accessed via the Church Directory app only by LSR members, and that only the content given to us by members specifically for the directory is available in the app. It's not accessible via the website directly since it's only available through the app, but we will at least mention the directory and the app on the website. We'll also continue to run an "ad" for the directory in *The Marker Lamp*.

Election Update

Deborah Gifford mentioned that we have candidates for all offices except for two. Bob is going to help her find candidates for those offices. There was also a bit of confusion about what offices were up for election this year, but it was clarified that the even-numbered directors (and all at-large) and that Vice President and Secretary are also both up.

The election starts March 1 and runs through March 31, and will use the same mechanism as last year. We also discussed who should have access to the ballots during/after an election and how to make sure the Elections Chair has access.

New Business

Divisions without Directors

Bob reported that Divisions 5 and 7 are without Directors at the moment. For Division 5, Bob is confident we will find a new Director soon. For Division 7, Bob is less sure. We may need to combine Division 7 into one or two other Divisions. There is no motion for today but wanted the Board to be aware. The general consensus seemed to be that if we have to eliminate that Division we should move the Texas members to a Texas division and the Louisiana members to the other Louisiana division, but it wasn't unanimous.

LSR Logo

The NMRA has adopted a new logo and has issued guidelines for its use. As discussed, regions have been directed to use the NMRA logo with the name of the region as their new logo.

This direction precludes the continued use of the existing LSR logo. However, many LSR members expressed a desire to continue to use a logo representing the region's identity.

A motion was made for an up or down vote for retaining the current Lone Star Region Logo in a modified form. The modification would be to delete the "National Model Railroad Association" and "NMRA" initials from the center part of the logo (or to replace the center part of the logo with a different design altogether), since the NMRA objects to the use of the old logo.

This motion was discussed and two potential options were shown at the Board meeting, but the motion did not include selecting a logo yet.

There was also discussion that while it was understood that the NMRA is trying to establish an updated brand identity, it should not be able to tell the regions what to do with their logos. Mixed feelings about the new NMRA logo were also expressed.

Motion 3: Motion to Retain LSR Logo in Modified Form

Bob Barnett moved that the Lone Star Region Board of Directors vote to retain the use of our current Lone Star Region logo in modified form (without the old NMRA logo incorporated in it). Seconded by Donna Orr. The motion passed unopposed.

In the near future, options for the updated logo will be developed and shared with the Board and potentially voted upon by the next Board meeting.

Update: On March 28, the Board voted, with no objections, to adopt the following logo. It will go into effect with the next issue of *The Marker Lamp*.

Division Logos

The recently adopted NMRA Branding Guide shows recommended practices for incorporating Division Logos into the NMRA official Brand Logo but allows Divisions to adopt the recommendation or retain their existing Division logos.

Motion 4: Motion to Give Divisions Freedom to Select Logos

Bob Barnett moved that the Lone Star Region Board of Directors supports the policy of allowing each Division of the Lone Star Region to select their own logo, which may, but does not have to, to incorporate the NMRA official Brand Logo per the NMRA Branding Guide. Peter Kazmir seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

Bylaws Update

Donna brought up that our recent bylaw changes missed one thing which was still a source of confusion. Specifically, she suggested that we change the wording in the Bylaws Article III (Duties of Officers) to clarify the inclusion of Board Advisor as a position that cannot serve as an NMRA elected officer or director simultaneously.

There was some discussion about how this might impact the availability of volunteers for chair or committee positions, but it was clarified that this would not impact those positions.

Motion 5: Motion to Change Wording in Bylaws Article III

Donna Orr moved that we update the Bylaws Article III, Paragraph 1, Sentence 5 as follows (new text in red):

> An elected LSR Officer or Director or Board Advisor cannot simultaneously be an elected LSR Officer/Director/Board Advisor and serve as an NMRA elected Officer/Director. This person can serve one or the other but not both simultaneously. Individuals must be a minimum of twenty-one (21) years of age before taking office.

Peter Kazmir seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed. The updated bylaws will be published on the LSR website.

Reassigning Zip Codes from Division 4 to Division 8

Members in Washington County, currently part of Division 4, have requested to be moved to Division 8, due to the ease of travel to the Houston area to participate in NMRA events. This would include members in four zip codes: 77426, 77835, 77833 and 77880. All members in these zip codes have been contacted by the Division 4 Director and have communicated their desire to move. The Division 4 and 8 Directors also agree.

Motion 6: Motion to Reassign Zip Codes from Division 4 to Division 8

Ray Byer moved that we change the following zip codes: 77426, 77835, 77833 and 77880, and the members living in these zip codes from being part of Division 4 to being part of Division 8. After this motion has passed by the LSR Board, the Membership Chairman or the Secretary will send a notification to the NMRA HQ of this change. Doug Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Reassigning Zip Code from Division 6 to Division 4

A similar discussion took place about a proposal by Doug Taylor to reassign zip code 78623, which is almost exactly equidistant between San Antonio and Austin to Division 4 (and currently has 1 NMRA member who participates in Division 4 activities). However, Roy Kaiser objected saying that the area is rapidly growing and is considered part of the greater San Antonio area.

It was pointed out that the NMRA member in question can choose to be moved to Division 4 without moving the zip code default, so no motion was voted upon; the zip code will remain with Division 6 and the NMRA member will be moved to Division 4 as per his request.

Youth Awards

Don Winn was pleased to announce that we have nominations from 6 Divisions for our annual Youth Award. He thanked the Division Directors for their help in making this happen. In consideration of youth protection guidelines, Don is withholding the youths' biographies and personal data from publication --- he can share that with those who have a need to know.

Motion 7: Motion to Grant Youth Awards for 2026

Don Winn moved that these deserving youth be approved to receive a plaque and a 1 year NMRA membership, per our guidelines:

Division 1 - Cameron Pantke
Division 2 - Charles Harrington
Division 3 - Sam Quintanilla
Division 4 - Eli Beams
Division 6 - Isaac Sarkar
Division 8 - Joshua Luebeck

The motion was seconded by Peter Kazmir and passed unopposed.

Loren Neufeld Model Contest Award

The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club wishes to sponsor an award in the memory of Loren Neufeld, MMR. Loren was an amazing modeler, builder of layouts, and designer in all scales of model railroading. The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club will pay for this award that will be given out at each LSR convention, if there is a model that meets the qualifications.

Rules:
"The Loren Neufeld Square Footer Award" will follow the same rules as those for the LSR Displays/Modules contest as posted on the LSR website, with the addition that the display/module must fit in a 12" by 12" square, regardless of scale. The winner will be selected by a San Jacinto Model Railroad Club member who is attending the convention and the LSR Contest Chair(s). If there is no display/module that qualifies, then the award will not be given out at that convention."

Motion 8: Motion to Establish "Loren Neufeld Square Footer Award"

Ray Byer moved, on the behalf of the San Jacinto Model Railroad club, to make and add the "The Loren Neufeld Square Footer Award" to the list of awards given out annually by the LSR to modelers who meet the standards of this award. Deborah Gifford seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

The LSR and LSR Convention websites will be updated with information about this new award.

Also discussed was to restore the original names of the Tree and Architect awards, and to ensure the Gil Freitag award has some rules/guidelines especially for breaking ties. These changes were also agreed to (without a motion) and the websites will be updated accordingly, after review by Ray and Jeff as Contest Co-Chairs.

Division Checking / Escrow Accounts

Steve Sandifer brought up an issue with some Divisions in that he ends up sending funds to some Divisions directly to individual people instead of to the Division. While we don't currently suspect any inappropriate use of funds, this gives people the opportunity. Also, if the funds are in a personal account and that person passes away, the funds will likely be unavailable for a long period of time during the probate process.

A discussion ensued about how we could avoid this going forward. Steve mentioned the escrow account we have for Division 7 as an example as one option. Another option we discussed was publishing Division finances in The Marker Lamp at least quarterly, but that was not included in the motion.

As a site note, Donna Orr also clarified that the Divisions are not part of the LSR 501(c)(3) according to the IRS, whether or not they are recognized as separate organizations.

Motion 9: Motion to Require Divisions to Have Business Checking Accounts or Defer Accounting to LSR

Donna Orr made a motion to require Divisions to have business (or, at least, not personal) checking accounts with a minimum of 2 people with full access, or to have their funds held in escrow by the LSR Treasurer. This was seconded by Peter Kazmir and passed unopposed.

Spare Laptops for Conventions

There was a discussion about purchasing a some laptops for use by clinicians and other presentations at LSR conventions. For upcoming conventions, though, it seems like there will be enough laptops available from other sources to make this unnecessary, so the discussion was tabled for now.

Adjournment

Motion 10: Meeting Adjournment

Roy Kaiser provided a motion, and Ray Byer seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unopposed, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 pm.

A Zoom recording of the meeting is available in the LSR's Google Drive at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Caq0CQJhCQiLQba4z4VaOzOFcs4jjcHY/view?usp=sharing **ML**

Officer, Director, and Department Reports

President

by Bob Barnett, MMR
rbarnettmopac@gmail.com

We are currently seeking someone as a replacement for the director of Division 5 the West Texas Division. Brooks Willig has moved out of the Region. There are two active model railroad clubs in the West Texas Division, in Amarillo and in Lubbock, so we hope to find a member willing to step up. We are also looking for someone willing to run for Director of LSR Division 7 as the current director does not wish to run again. Division 7 is more challenging as there is no concentration of NMRA members in any of the urban areas.

We also anticipate a lively discussion at the mid-year meeting as we discuss how to adopt the new NMRA logo and its use for our region and the divisions.

Again we thank Rod Fredericks and the group in Division 2, for putting on a great LSR Convention last summer and eagerly anticipate the 2026 Convention to be held in Austin. After I submitted the historian's article on earlier Central Texas conventions and details of the first Austin LSR Convention, Peter informed me that we are actually at the same hotel as that 1988 convention (same hotel - new name).

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the mid-year meeting and at the convention in June.

Vice-President

by Ray Byer
raybyer@yahoo.com

(No report received)

Treasurer

by Steve Sandifer, MMR
steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net

Below is a copy of our transactions for the current (fiscal) year.

				Checking	CDs	Total
5/1/2025	May 1, end of fiscal year			$15,003.31	41140.67	$56,143.98
5/17/2025	Centex ISR - Convention grant	1222	c	-$2,000.00		
5/21/2025	NMRA - Youth award	1223	c	-$40.00		
6/1/2025				$12,963.31		
6/27/2025	Gert Muller - renewal of domain name	1224	c	-22.17		
6/27/2025	Ray Byer - Contest room supplies	1225	c	-28.31		
7/1/2025				$12,912.83	$41,411.26	$54,324.09
7/1/2025	UPS Roc Fredericks	Charge		-9.44		
7/1/2025	Debit card fee	Charge	c	-0.19		
7/10/2025	Davina Gato-Hogno - NoRails Convention	1226	c	-393.33		
8/1/2025				$12,509.87	$41,545.02	$54,054.89
8/14/2025	Blues Express		c	$950.00		
8/16/2025	Duane Richardson - Awards	1247	c	-$598.00		
8/16/2025	NMRA youth awards	1246	c	-$80.00		
9/1/2025				$12,781.87	$41,683.70	$54,465.57
9/8/2025	NMRA Loan repayment		c	$2,000.00		
9/14/2025	NMRA Rebate		c	$774.00		
9/14/2025	Div 1 rebate	1227	c	-$70.50		
9/14/2025	Div 2 rebate	1228	c	-$38.00		
9/14/2025	Div 3 rebate	1229		-$77.50 Not Clear		
9/14/2025	Div 4 rebate	1230	c	-$55.50		
9/14/2025	Div 5 rebate	1231	c	-$11.50		
9/14/2025	Div 6 rebate	1232	c	-$33.00		
9/14/2025	Div 8 rebate	1233	c	-$90.50		
9/22/2025	Blues Express		c	$480.46		
10/1/2025				$15,659.83	41822.83	$57,482.66
10/20/2025	Move to CD			-$4,739.50		
11/1/2025				$10,920.33	46700.25	
12/1/2025				$11,920.33		
1/1/2026				$11,920.33	46990.42	
	Unclear checks			$115.50		
	Bank Balance			$12,035.83	46990.42	$59,026.25

As of March 2026, we now have three divisions with escrow accounts being held by the LSR.

Division 2, South Louisiana, is sending me a check closing out their account as Rod no longer feels strong enough to lead the division. Rod has done a fine job, especially with the Blues convention.

Division 5, West Texas, has lost its leadership with Brooks Willig moving to Alabama. This is an enormous division, and Brooks tried hard with Zoom meetings to pull it together. He will be a blessing to the folks in Alabama.

Division 7, North Louisiana, has been in Escrow for some time as that division is not functioning. There has been no activity since we paid some annual bills in January. As of March 1 we have $10,101.06 in the checking account and $47,270.34 in CDs. Our next CD renewal date is May 20.

Secretary

by Peter Kazmir
peter@centexnmra.org

Since our last Board Meeting, the *Marker Lamp* has had a minor redesign. These changes were focused primarily on improving accessibility – making it easier to read - with carefully selected fonts, colors, and layouts plus more consistent formatting. Behind the scenes, these changes also made it (slightly) easier to produce each issue. We have received several positive pieces of feedback since the changes.

The 2026 Convention is utilizing our new standardized web site for conventions. Over the next couple of months, as we finish adding more content to the site (such as individual clinics), I will create a template copy for the 2027 Convention (and future conventions) to utilize. The template can be customized for each convention (in terms of colors, fonts, logos, hiding or exposing sections, adding or removing categories to the schedule, and so on). Along with the template I will work with Joe to add a section to the Convention Guide that details how to use the website. The goal is that future Convention Committees will no longer have to build a new website from scratch every year (unless they want to), and that they should be able to use this template website without much help from the LSR/web chair. The site is developed in Wordpress and includes a robust registration system and store.

The LSR website is likewise being revamped using a new Wordpress design. As of this Board Meeting only the front page is online but the rest of the site - a combination of content from the old website and new content - will be filled out over the next few months. The old website is still available on the Internet Archive's "Way Back Machine" at https://web.archive.org/web/20251009e134954/lonestarregion.com if someone needs to access the old content in the interim.

As part of the LSR website change, we also switched to a new web host (Dreamhost) which provides hosting for free. In addition, we changed our domain from lonestarregion.com to lsrnmra.org, including our email. Users going to the old website will be automatically redirected to the new website for several months.

All of this work took priority over building out the Museum website. However, that is next on the list and will also use the same Wordpress technology being used for these other websites, so building the website should go very quickly, and then the Museum team will be able to publish and curate the content on the site without requiring help from the web chair or others on this Board, except as technical support.

Finally, I intend to step down as Publication Chair / Editor of *The Marker Lamp* later this year. It's in great shape with lots of good content coming in (keep it coming!) but I have other activities in my life that are competing for time and I will have to let this particular activity go.

I would like folks to start thinking about who might be willing to take my place. It takes several hours of work once a quarter, aside from "herding the cats" to get the content. This work can be spread over a month's time, though, so it's not onerous. The one qualification is that you will need to know how to use Adobe InDesign (or at least the Adobe Creative suite), or be willing to build *The Marker Lamp* in a different tool.

[**Update:** We have found a person to take over *The Marker Lamp*. He will start with the September issue.]

Board Advisor

by Donna Orr
donnalorrtx@gmail.com

In my role as Advisor to the LSR Board of Directors, I have been actively working with several board members on a variety of ongoing projects. This has included providing guidance, coordination support, and strategic input to assist with planning and decision-making efforts across multiple initiatives.

In addition, I am currently working on and advising the planning efforts for the 2027 LSR Regional NMRA Convention. My involvement includes supporting early organizational planning, offering recommendations based on prior experience, and assisting board members and committees as they develop the framework for a successful convention.

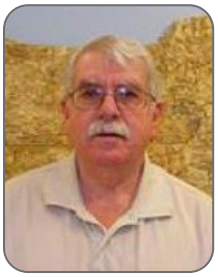
Overall, these efforts are focused on strengthening board effectiveness and ensuring the long-term success of LSR programs and events.

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Dick Brannan
director@cowcatcherdivision.org

(Report was published in the December *Marker Lamp.)*

Bayou Division 2



by Rod Fredericks
fredericks.rod@gmail.com

The Blues Express 2025 LSR NMRA convention is now a memory. There were 94 primary registrations and 22 non-rails that, along with a few minors and day passers made up for a total of 131 registrations. After all bills were paid the Bayou Division cleared $1555.00. A special thank you to all who attended and especially to those who helped to make the Blues Express 2025 a success. For more detailed information I refer you to the: Lone Star Regional General Information Convention Report, and 2025 Lone Star Regional Convention Report – Financial Data and Reconciliation.

However, more than the funds generated for the LSR and Division 2, the real benefit as I see it was the opportunity for model railroaders of the LSR east and west to come together. Here in South Louisiana, there is a lot of good model railroading going on, but much of it is confined to small areas with little interface to one and other, much less to the west of the region. Now that that passway is opened, hopefully we will see more Louisiana modelers at the Austin convention. I'll be there!

So now it is time to retire this logo and look forward to next summer where east comes to the west.

Trinity River Division 3

by Jeff Rykel
jeff_rykiel@yahoo.com

Greetings from Division 3.

After the Plano Fall Train show in October, our Team members have finally completed the Pay it forward Layout that was raffled off at the Plano Train Show in January. We had a better than expected attendance for the Show as well as the raffle. The winner, Easton Anderson, was asked to reach into the bowl and selected one ticket. The crowd was in shock as this little boy shut his eyes and reached into the bowl of over 500 tickets to select the one he filled out 1 day earlier.

Seen here holding his new controller in front of his layout with Division 3 members. The Newby Valley has found a home. The Newby Valley is a modular layout which has items from a variety of techniques… paper, 3D printed objects, traditional plastic and wood kits, and various scenery techniques, including geodesic foam. (Lightweight mountain options)

Our Christmas Party in December was a success for all who attended. Thanks to Donna Orr hosting at her House.

Dan Darrouzet has taken over the Clinics Chair for Div 3. Starting in Feb the first clinic will be "How to give a Clinic" focusing on process, outline, and delivery. We look forward to a number of new clinics over the upcoming year. A poll has been sent out to members to identify popular clinic topics to be delivered for the

upcoming year. Four have already been scheduled.

Search has been narrowed for the LSR 2027 Convention. More to come.

And finally the presidents award to Marshall Leak III:

Update (March 2026): For Division 3, with a successful Plano Train show behind us, we've started the process of planning for the LSR Convention for 2027, even though the 2026 convention is in a few months.

Our meeting location has changed and we are still in the process of finding a more permanent meeting location.

Our layout raffle was a huge success, and the layout was set up in their home location by Members of Div 3, who were in fact the builders of the Newby Valley.

Daniel Darrouzet has already procured Clinics for the meetings throughout the year as a run up to our 2027 LSR Convention, wherein most clinicians may be local members.

Finally, we are looking for the next Project for the Jan train Show here in Plano. Since our last was a huge success, we wish to continue its success.

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Doug Taylor
director@centexnmra.org

Greetings from Division 4!

We are making great progress on the 2026 LSR Convention. We have already scheduled some interesting tours, have a ton of clinics lined up, a large number of layouts to visit and plenty of operations to be had. All this in addition to a great keynote speaker and some special guests coming in. You are not going to want to miss this convention as we try to make it something special for our nation's 250th birthday, so come Connect with us!

Early Bird registration is OPEN, so go and get signed up at connections2026.com. To keep up to date, make sure to bookmark connections2026.com on your browser! Keep in mind that the Regional Convention is a benefit for the entire Region and we still have room for more volunteers. As an added bonus, you can earn AP credit for volunteering! Great things can happen when dedicated people put their minds to the task.

We have had a number of members do clinics at our meetings to share their knowledge with the Division, as well as quite a few showing their amazing layouts during layout tours. At our meetings we also have time set aside for members to bring in projects they are working on to show the membership. There have been some excellent models shown and the Q&A after each is presented is informative to all.

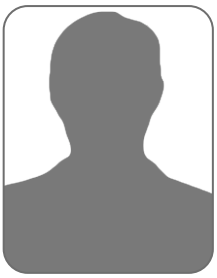
The next meeting for the division will be March 14th at the Austin NW Rec center. The meeting will start at 10:00 and as always it will be broadcast live on Zoom.

Update (March 2026): We are making great progress on the 2026 LSR Convention. We have already scheduled 3 interesting prototype tours, have over 40 clinics lined up, more than 20 layouts to visit and plenty of operations to be had, both on and off site. All this in addition to a great keynote speaker and some special guests coming in.

Our March Division meeting was held at the Bob Bullock Museum to coincide with their "Trains at the Bullock" event. We have had a number of members do presentations/clinics at our meetings to share their knowledge with the Division, as well as quite a few showing their amazing layouts during layout tours. At our meetings we also have time set aside for members to bring in projects they are working on to show the membership. There have been some excellent models shown and the Q&A after each is presented is informative to all.

The next meeting for the division will be May 9th at the Austin NW Rec center. The meeting will start at 10:00 and as always it will be broadcast live on Zoom.

West Texas Division 5



(Position currently vacant)

South Texas Division 6

by Roy Kaiser
fr8train@gvtc.com

Hello to everyone from South Texas:

We continue to have a very good turnout at our bi-monthly Division 6 meetings. We are still averaging nearly 30 people per meeting. Each meeting has been complete with a clinic by a local model railroader and most meetings have included a home layout tour afterward.

Division 6 members have once again, expressed their desire to maintain the current logo which we worked for most of a year. We feel the logo best expresses the area of South Central Texas and the rich railroad heritage of the region. General consensus on the new NMRA logo has been a big thumbs DOWN!

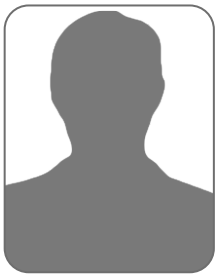
Our current membership stands at 71 which is the result of 1 members requesting (and being approved) a change of status from Division 6 to Division 4 despite the fact that he is a permanent resident of Division 6.

While we still do not agree with the outcome, it appears the region is well within it's right to reassign members to another division within the region.

We continue to try and explain the reason(s) for the decline in membership. So far the biggest reason seems to be annual cost combined with a feeling of that NMRA membership just doesn't offer the average modeler enough to justify the expense.

In closing, I would like to once again express my sincere gratitude for the continue support of our sponsors Discount Model Trains, Papa Ben's Train Place, Prototype N Scale Models, Maverick Metalwork and the Longhorn Café. Thank you all.

North Louisiana Division 7



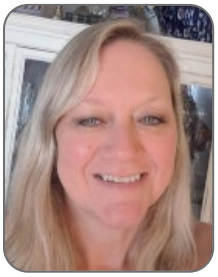
(Position currently vacant)

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Phil Stewart
pstewart1225@yahoo.com

(No report received)

At-Large Director



by Deborah Gifford
gifforddeborah5@gmail.com

As the new year kicks off it will soon be time for … Elections! I know everyone is excited and ready to nominate and or run for an office.

On that note I would like to propose making that process a bit smoother. Possibly a link posted in *The Marker Lamp* or some other means to make it easier to vote. This year D 2, D 4, D 8 directors are up for election. As well as Vice President and Secretary. Thank you.

Update (March 2026): Serving as Director at Large and the elections chair for the LSR has been a learning experience to say the least and also my pleasure. I am hopeful that I can find a way to encourage more to run for office as it has given me, being fairly new to the model railroading community, a deeper understanding of the hobby and what the people in the hobby want from it.

I also hope that everyone exercises their right to vote as well because as they say, "if you don't vote you can't complain."

I am looking forward to the LSR convention in Austin in June and am excited to go to the National convention in Chattanooga and hope to see you there.

At-Large Director

by Michael Harang
miharang@gmail.com

Over the past few months, I have been focusing on finishing the Chief Dispatcher AP certificate. Operating on other members' layouts is an enjoyable, learning experience. I recommend everyone who has not tried operations to do so. Also, I have been building some cpNode (from MRCS) hardware that will be used for layout control (turnout control, direction indicators, frog polarity, occupancy detection). This system is based on the C/MRI standard. I plan on using it in conjunction with JMRI software.

At-Large Director

by Don Winn, MMR
donswinn@gmail.com

Discussions and planning have begun in earnest for the 2028 LSR Convention hosted by Division 6. Roy and I have met to discuss a plan, and Robert Thomas has volunteered to join the team as well.

Thanks to Speed who has agreed to continue in his role as the Operations coordinator. We have drafted up a list of potential layouts to host the Ops sessions and also Layout Tours.

We're looking for venues in San Antonio and also New Braunfels, but results to date have been disappointing. We have not yet found any venues that would fit our needs at anywhere near a reasonable price, even if we were to hold the convention outside of the summer months. San Antonio is a destination city, and the pricing reflects what the venues can get away with charging.

The search for a venue continues. We are open to holding the convention separate from a hotel, which has worked fine for the Division 8 conventions and others like Temple. If ANYONE has any specific recommendations for a meeting site, please let us know.

Thanks!
Don Winn

Achievement Program

by Duane Richardson, MMR
pinecreekstation@verizon.net

Below is the AP Report since those reported at the last Board meeting.

Congratulations to our three new MMRs, Darrell Cowles, John Garfield, and Steve Jackobs.

First Name	Last Name	Division #	Certificate	Cert-Date
Jim	Archer	1	Scenery	8/20/2025
Darrell	Cowles	1	Motive Power	8/20/2025
Darrell	Cowles	1	MMR	8/20/2025
John	Garfield	1	MMR	8/20/2025
John	Garfield	1	Chief Dispatcher	8/20/2025
John	Garfield	1	Motive Power	8/20/2025
David	Kranda	1	Chief Dispatcher	8/20/2025
Edward	McGinley	1	Scenery	8/20/2025
Eric	Smith	1	Golden Spike	10/20/2025
Michael	Harang	2	Official	1/20/2026
Jackobs	Steven	4	Scenery	6/20/2025
Jackobs	Steven	4	Motive Power	6/20/2025
Jackobs	Steven	4	MMR	6/20/2025
Jackobs	Steven	4	Cars	6/20/2025
Joe	Dumas	4	Golden Spike	11/20/2025
Tim	Giraud	4	Golden Spike	12/20/2025
Wayne	Jones	4	Volunteer	1/20/2026
Pete	Leach, MMR	8	Chief Dispatcher	9/20/2025
David	Paul	8	Chief Dispatcher	9/20/2025
David	Paul	8	Civil	9/20/2025
Honn	Tudor	8	Golden Spike	12/20/2025

Contests

by Ray Byer and Jeff Palmer, MMR
raybyer@yahoo.com
res06wqv@gte.net

(No report received)

Conventions

by Joe Leising
joe@leising.com

Make plans to attend Connections 2026, the annual Lone Star Region convention. The Cen-Tex Division 4 Convention Committee has been meeting bi-weekly making arrangements for what is sure to be another fantastic LSR convention.

The convention will take place at the Wyndham Garden Hotel and Woodward Conference Center, all under one roof, just south of downtown Austin. The location will provide for convenient access to Operating Sessions and Layout Tours throughout the Austin area. And the Austin Model Railroad Society (AMRS) will have their layout onsite at the Wyndham Garden hotel.

Arrangements for nationally recognized special guest clinicians and an amazing keynote speaker have already been confirmed. Early Bird discounted convention registration and discounted group hotel reservations are available at Connections2026.com. The earlier that you register, the more likely it will be that you are notified to be able to register for operating sessions and special tours before they are sold-out, so register today. Check the Connections2026.com website often for convention updates.

The Trinity River Division 3 has been researching multiple venues for the 2027 LSR Convention. Amongst their priorities is easy access to the convention location and to operating sessions, layout tours, and points of interest. The research is nearly complete and a decision for the proposed venue should be made very soon.

The South Texas Division 6 has already begun searching for a location for the 2028 LSR Convention.

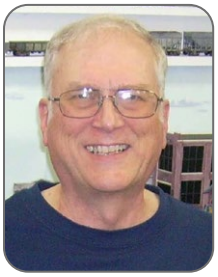
The SanJac Model Railroad Club has agreed to host the 2030 LSR Convention. Convention hosts for the next 5 years are now confirmed. Upcoming convention hosts are:

2026 – Cen-Tex Division 4
2027 – Trinity River Division 3
2028 – South Texas Division 6
2029 – Cowcatcher Division 1
2030 – SanJac / Texas Gulf Division 8

This robust group of convention hosts will provide for great opportunities to learn from clinicians that you might not be familiar with and an opportunity to view and operate on layouts that you might not have been able to view and operate on before.

Set aside the dates of June 18-21, 2026 for Connections 2026 and register now to take advantage of the Early Bird registration and hotel discounts at Connections2026.com before prices go up April 30.

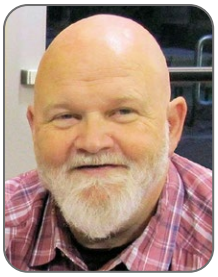
Education



by Robert Mangrum, MMR
1txsouthrr@gmail.com

(Report was published in the December *Marker Lamp.)*

Events



by Bill Dryden
bdr149@airmail.net

We are gaining ground as more folks are sending in notices for upcoming events, though I am still getting some notices a few days or so after I have submitted the column. There have been several folks who have called, following up with e-mails with more details. Anyone having events to be published, please send me the details: bdr149@airmail.net

A reminder to all: Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – column submission deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August and November; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Membership

by Jared Roberts
jlroberts0418@gmail.com

Sadly, we've had two members pass away since the last issue, and no rerails. Membership report below.

Youth

by Don Winn, MMR
donswinn@gmail.com

A big Thank You to everyone who took the time to nominate youth in their divisions who are demonstrating a passion for model railroading. We had a big increase in participation this year, with 6 divisions providing a nomination. That may be a record! Again, thanks for your help in making this happen.

And hey, it's a new year! Is it too early to start nominating youth for this year??? No, it's not too early! If you have suggestions or nominations, please contact me.

I am pleased to recommend the following nominations for our 2025 Youth Awards:

Div 1 - Cameron Pantke
Div 2 - Charles Harrington
Div 3 - Sam Quintanilla
Div 4 - Eli Beams
Div 6 - Isaac Sarkar
Div 8 - Joshua Luebeck

A motion has been drafted for the board to approve these fine candidates for the award.

Membership Report

	2025											2026	
Division	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**
One	166	167	164	160	158	157	154	151	150	145	141	139	138
Two	81	81	82	84	83	84	83	84	83	83	72	77	77
Three	173	171	168	166	169	167	168	166	163	163	156	155	154
Four	128	126	126	129	130	130	131	129	129	126	124	123	122
Five	30	28	27	28	27	28	28	26	27	26	25	24	23
Six	77	74	74	73	74	74	72	73	73	70	69	70	71
Seven	23	22	22	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	22	21	20
Eight	194	193	197	196	195	189	190	191	189	186	182	182	184
LSR Total	**872**	**862**	**860**	**859**	**859**	**852**	**849**	**843**	**837**	**822**	**791**	**791**	**789**

Tex Copsetta's HO Scale Southern Pacific Shasta Route, featued at Connections 2026. Photo by Peter Kazmir

Check out the
NEW
LSR website!

https://lsrnmra.org

Lots more will be coming soon!

We're looking for more GREAT LSR model railroads for the front page!

GET OUT THE WORD!

Color

Ads Available

Raise awareness for your business, model railroad, club or event while supporting the Lone Star Region by placing an ad in the Marker Lamp.

- Want to let everyone know about your latest product?
- Looking to build membership in your club?
- Want to attract model railroaders to your show?
- Do you have a special feature or crack express train on your layout?

Let everyone know about it with a color ad!

100% NMRA clubs and LSR divisions receive a $30 discount - the equivalent of a free half-page ad!

Ad prices per year (four issues):

- Full page: $50
- Half page: $30 (horizontal or vertical)
- Quarter page: $15
- Pike ads (~1/8 page): $8

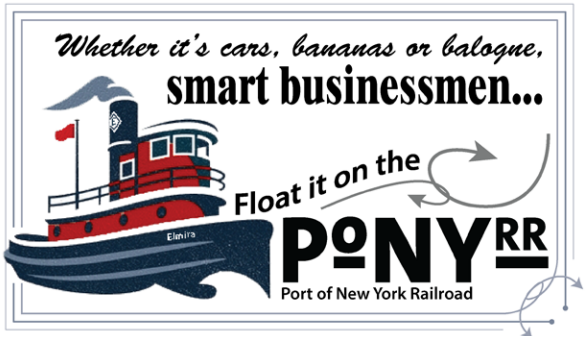
For more information or to submit an ad, contact:

Steve Sandifer
steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net

Pike Ads

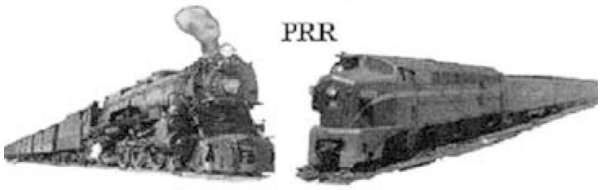
ACME & MINERAL CITY RAILROAD

Bill Dryden
469-964-8571
Georgetown, Texas
bdlr149@airmail.net
Life Member NMRA & LSR



Riley Triggs | ponyrr.blogspot.com

THE ALLEGHENY RAILROAD
HORSESHOE CURVE
ALTOONA



Jerry Schoenberg
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Pennsylvania Railroad
Laurel Valley Secondary

Pittsburgh Division Circa 1957
Brady McGuire, Sherman, Texas
903-820-9420
Southwestern Pennsylvania in Texas O Scale

BC&G
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New Members & Visitors Welcome!
How-to Clinics - Operating Sessions - Family Activities
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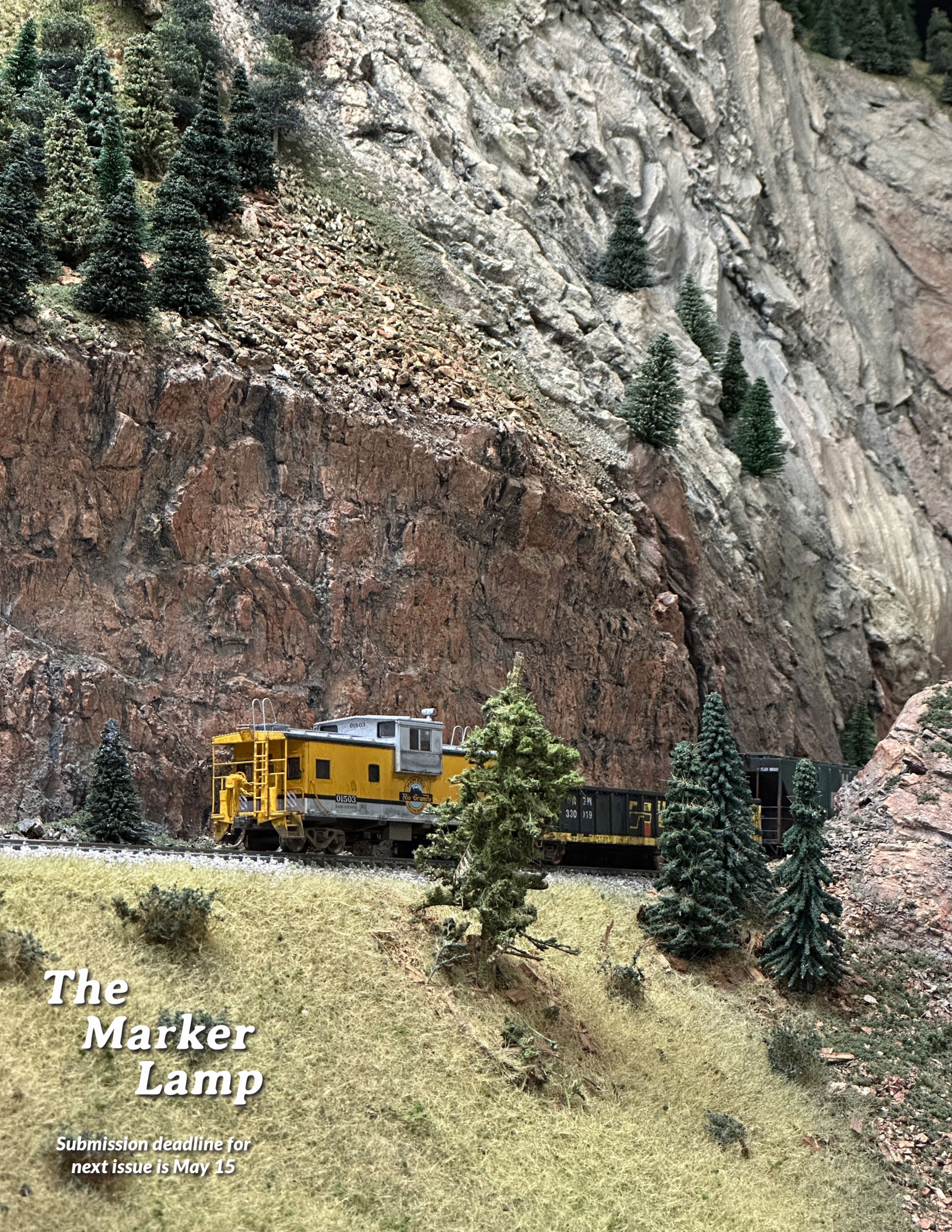
4007-E Bellaire Blvd., Houston, Texas
www.houstonNcrowd.org

Texas Western Model Railroad Club
6808 Forest Hill Drive, Forest Hill, TX 76140 (682) 587-2092

TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Membership is Open!
Visitors Welcome, See **twmrc.org** for Days/Times
Follow us on Facebook @texaswesternmodelrailroadclub

There's plenty of room for more - add your pike today!



The Marker Lamp

Submission deadline for next issue is May 15